Sandwell
CHRONICLE

Thursday, April 19, 2018 | Read by more than 46,000 people | Price when sold 70p

STAFFIE HERITAGE CENTRE LAUNCHES APPEAL OVER ROUGH ROOF

The heritage centre in Albert Street, High Bullen

A MUSEUM celebrating the Staffordshire Bull Terrier has launched a fundraiser to raise money for a damaged roof.

The Staffordshire Bull Terrier Heritage Centre in Wednesbury needs to raise between £12,000 and £15,000 to fix its leaking roof. The museum, which has full charity status, has currently raised £4,500.

Paul Baker, chairman of the centre, said: "The council gave us the building on a 25-year lease but any maintenance has to be done and paid for by ourselves. When we took over the building it was pretty much derelict but we got it up and running.

"There's a lot of artefacts in there, so literally it's now about trying to get the roof done and that will secure us for the years that we're in there. I hope within the next two months we'll have raised that money."

Mr Baker said an issue was that people didn't realise how large the roof was. He said: "The roof doesn't look like 160 square metres and that's what people don't realise.

"When we say we need £12,000 to £15,000, they look at the front and think 'that's a lot of money for that roof there.'"

The museum has been supported by local breed clubs and has received donations of rare books, which will be sold to raise money. It was opened in February 2016 by the Mayor of Sandwell and offers a detailed insight into the Staffordshire Bull Terrier.

Mr Baker said the museum was a special 'attraction' and people came from all over the world to visit.

"We're the only museum for the breed in the world and if you take the last few weeks, we've had Australians, Russians, Canadians and [the] French through the door," he said.

You can donate to the Staffordshire Bull Terrier Heritage Centre by visiting www.expressandstar.com

First intake due at secondary from next September

NEW SCHOOL WILL OFFER 750 PLACES

A NEW 750-place secondary school has been given the go-ahead by the Department for Education.

Council bosses have said the school in West Bromwich will be built on Kelvin Way – subject to planning permission. The first 150 Year 7 pupils are due to start at the school in September 2019, with parents able to apply for a place from July this year. Chiefs said the school would eventually accommodate 750 pupils.

It is being sponsored by the Shireland Collegiate Academy Trust that runs a number of schools, including Shireland Collegiate Academy in Smethwick, which has been consistently judged 'outstanding' by Ofsted inspectors.

Chris Ward, director of education, skills and employment at Sandwell Council, said: "This will be the second new secondary school to open in Sandwell in the last 10 years, following on from the successful Q3 Academy in Oldbury, which opened in 2016.

An artist's impression of the school

Demand

"This is a much-needed school in West Bromwich where it is expected there will be increasing demand for secondary school places in the next few years."

The next steps will be to confirm funding streams and obtain planning permission before work can start on site.

Chief executive of the Shireland Collegiate Academy Trust, Sir Mark Grundy, said: "We are incredibly proud to have been asked to work with Sandwell Council on the development of this new school."

"Shireland has consistently been judged as outstanding by Ofsted coupled with exceptional Progress 8 levels of achievement."

A rapidly rising population, accelerated over recent years by increased migration and a baby boom, means an extra 3,500 places are needed across the borough by 2025.

Crew goes from rung to right up for funds

TEN members of a fire crew will be climbing the distance of Everest in a bid to raise funds for a firefighting charity.

Firefighters from Blue Watch and Green Watch at Haden Cross Fire will be scaling a ladder 126 times each at intu Merry Hill to raise money for the Fire Fighters Charity.

The group will battle the equivalent of Mount Everest and climb 8,848 metres on Saturday to raise the target of £1,000 – with £640 having already been donated.

Matt Crawford, aged 35, who has been a firefighter for 11 years, said: "We are excited and quite proud to be able to raise money for The Fire Fighters Charity.

"We are not nervous because we have trained hard and we know what to expect. We are there as a team and ultimately it is team work that gets anything done in the fire service.

"It is not as easy as you think it is to climb a ladder if you do it over and over again. We have been practicing every week for the last 10 to 12 weeks." To donate to the cause visit www.justgiving.com/fundraising/hadencross

Taking steps – station commander Matt Ling, back left, with Paul Morris, front left, Dominic Rose, Matt Crawford and Temple Jones

DELAY

Hospital will be completed – boss

A HEALTH boss has moved to calm fears the Midland Metropolitan Hospital will not be completed.

Toby Lewis, chief executive of Sandwell's NHS trust, has written to councillors to assure them the £350 million project has the backing of the Prime Minister and will be completed.

The hospital, which is around two-thirds built in Smethwick, has been thrown into chaos by the collapse of Carillion, with work having been halted for weeks.

Mr Lewis has expressed his frustration at the delay and insisted a solution must be found soon to ensure the opening date is not put back any longer.

HEALTH

A&E care under fire by watchdog

URGENT and emergency care at Russells Hall Hospital has been ranked inadequate by a health watchdog – with some patients suffering 'serious harm.'

That damning appraisal came as the Care Quality Commission concluded the Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust needs to improve.

Its overall 'requires improvement' rating is the same as in its previous inspection four years ago.

JOBS

Benefit claims rise across the borough

SANDWELL'S jobless claimants have gone up by 140 in March to 7,470 across the borough.

It comes as the West Midlands has seen a dramatic fall in the number of people out of work, while figures for those in employment have surged in recent months.

But last month saw another big jump in Sandwell of people claiming unemployment benefits, thought to be due to the increasing roll-out of Universal Credit.

INSIDE

We're digging the dancing queens

PAGE 4

There's an "APP" for your Local

Download on the App Store — search for County Cars
Google play — search for County Cars gpc

LOOK CHEAPEST TAXI FARES AROUND FARES FROM £2.60!*

Ring Back: We dead ring you when 1 minute away
Text Back: We text your phone when 1 minute away

Book, Pre-Book and Track Your Taxi from the APP 0121 505 5555 0121 522 2233

*dependent on mileage

CONTENTS

RHODES	6
LETTERS	7
MEMORY LANE	12
AREA FOCUS	18
TICKET	21
TV	24
PROPERTY	29
SPORT	39-40

CONTACT US

EDITORIAL:
Tel: 01384 353201/01384 353205
E-mail: sandwell.chronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

SPORTS:
Tel: 01902 319453
E-mail: chron.sport@expressandstar.co.uk

PHOTOGRAPHIC: Tel: 01902 319430
E-mail: picturedesk@expressandstar.co.uk

ADVERTISING: Nicola Cope
Tel: 01902 319573
E-mail: nicola.cope@expressandstar.co.uk

PROPERTY: Colin Bailey
Tel: 01902 313131 ext 3731
E-mail: colin.bailey@expressandstar.co.uk

MOTORING: Stuart Whitehead
Tel: 01902 319177
E-mail: stuart.whitehead@expressandstar.co.uk

CLASSIFIED:
Tel: 01902 317878
E-mail: my-classified@expressandstar.co.uk

DISTRIBUTION: Paul Jones
Tel: 01902 319990
E-mail: p.jones@expressandstar.co.uk

Sandwell CHRONICLE

51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES
Open Monday to Friday 9am-1pm and 2pm-5pm
www.yourchronicle.com

Joel charity tops £145k in two years

Joel Richards

A CHARITY has marked two years in existence – and revealed it has raised more than £145,000 since its inception.

Smile for Joel was set up in memory of three terror victims from the Black Country. It was launched to honour Saddlers fans Joel Richards, Adrian Evans and Patrick Evans who were killed in Tunisia in 2015.

Smile for Joel was set up by Joel's mother Suzy Evans and her son Owen to support other families who have been affected through similarly traumatic experiences.

Marking two years of existence the charity has now confirmed it has raised a staggering £145,000. A statement said: "A big happy second birthday to Smile for Joel. What an amazing amount of money raised so far. Thank you to everyone who has helped fundraise, donated and supported our events.

"With your help we are helping so many heartbroken families in honour and memory of Joel, Ade, Pat and all those beautiful people that never came home. They will never be forgotten."

When Smile for Joel was granted official charity status earlier this year, Miss Evans said: "We are very pleased and excited to announce that we now have charity status.This means we can continue to grow on a bigger platform and continue to help families.

"Smile for Joel is in memory of my family, but also in memory of all those that never came home – 38 innocent holidaymakers were killed that tragic day, and we never want them to be forgotten. Having charity status opens new doors for us and gives us more strength to go forward."

Smile for Joel helps families who are victims of traumatic bereavement through homicide.

Homeless figure will increase, warn chiefs

HOMELESS levels will rise in Sandwell due to a shortage of houses, council bosses have warned.

Sandwell has more homeless people than the national average, with numbers set to rise further, a damning report has concluded.

The verdict was set out in a Sandwell Council report, produced after the local authority carried out a statutory five-year review into homelessness in November.

The report, which will be discussed by council bosses this week, said: "Despite the overall plateauing in homeless trends within the last three years, future levels of homelessness are likely to increase based on the socio-economic profile of the borough set against a backdrop of significant and growing housing market pressures. Current levels of statutory homelessness in Sandwell exceed national rates."

Legislation

Council cabinet members were due to discuss the findings this week and set out plans on how to tackle the issue.

The report reveals large families are having to use bed and breakfast accommodation due to a 'general lack of suitable accommodation for larger households'.

However, the number of families in B&B's fell by 12, from 42 in 2015/16 to 30 in 2016/17.

A homeless study conducted during November found 10 people on average were sleeping rough in the borough. This worked out to one person for every 10,000 households, which was below the national figure of 0.18 outside of London.

Sandwell Council leader Steve Eling said homelessness was rising in Sandwell but added it was problem happening all over the country.

He said: "The report is about new legislation and placing new duties on local authorities around homelessness and preventing people becoming homeless in the first place.

Suited and booted for the Hippodrome

The cast putting their best boots forward with the musical Kinky Boots, set to play in Birmingham

PERFORMERS will be zipping up their Kinky Boots and heading to Birmingham next year, in a musical featuring songs by pop icon Cyndi Lauper. Tickets for the multi-award winning musical at the Hippodrome go on sale from 11am on Monday April 30.

Talking about the show, Cyndi who wrote the lyrics and music for songs in the musical, said that it had been a 'priviledge' for her to play a part in creating Kinky Boots.

"Everyone can relate to this universal story, and I am overwhelmed that people in the UK have embraced it with open arms. I am thrilled that this fabulous show will be touring the country," she said.

The production is inspired by true events, and follows the story of Charlie Price in Northampton, who inherits the family business after his father dies. He is not interested in shoes or the failing business, until a transvestite cabaret singer inspires Charlie to save the factory by producing 'alternative' footwear. Kinky Boots at the Adelphi Theatre in London has won three Olivier Awards for Best New Musical, Best Costume Design and Best Actor in a Musical among other accolades.

Director and choreographer, Jerry Mitchell, said that he is delighted that the musical is heading to the area.

"Kinky Boots is very close to my heart, and I am really looking forward to taking this British musical all over the UK," he said.

Director is stepping out for dementia sufferers

A CHARITY worker will be putting her best foot forward at the Charity Walk for Peace.

Alison Pugh, director of better understanding of dementia for Sandwell and her husband will join other walkers at Royal Windsor Park on April 29.

Mrs Pugh is hoping to raise £500 for BUDS to help provide its services to the borough of Sandwell, including activity services, carers support and training.

It is estimated there are more than 3,000 people in Sandwell with a diagnosis of dementia and a further 1,500 that are undiagnosed.

Valuable

BUDS currently aid more than 100 clients who suffer with dementia.

She said: "I am extremely passionate about our charity and supporting people diagnosed with dementia within the Borough of Sandwell. I want to support the charity to continue with it's valuable work."

The Charity Walk for Peace is organised by the Ahmadiyya Muslim Elders Association and has raised more than £4m in its 19-year existence, supporting 364 charities. You can support Alison by donating at www.justgiving.com/fundraising/ali son-pugh2

Sandwell marks St George's Day

THERE are lots of fun ways to celebrate St George's Day in Sandwell at the weekend. On Saturday, 13th century Manor House Museum in West Bromwich has music, dance, drama, comedy, art, crafts and trails as a Shakespeare experience meets St George from 12-3pm.

Sandwell libraries are also celebrating on Saturday, with activities including a Buns, Bards and Ballads family fun day at Tipton Library from 10.30am to 12.30pm.

On Sunday, it's the annual parade and family fun day in West Bromwich organised by Stone Cross St George. The parade will form from around 10am in Westminster Road, setting off at around 10.30am. Also at Dartmouth Park, there will be a short service by the war memorial followed by a fun family day.

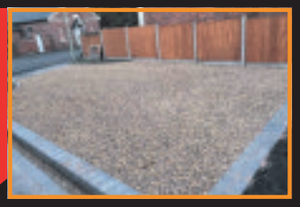
The Hawthorns to host stand-up comedy night

A STAND-UP comedy night is to be held at The Hawthorns next week.

Performing in The Richardson Suite on Friday, April 27 from 7pm are Nipper Thomas, Stephen Dodd and Baggies fan Karen Bailey. Tickets are £15 and can be booked by calling 0121 524 3453.

PEJ Driveway Services Ltd
We are an established and professional company that specialises in hardscaping and landscaping

Interest Free Credit Available
(T&C's apply)
10% OFF
When you quote Express & Star and Chronicle



• TARMAC
• SLABBING
• BLOCK PAVING
• FENCING • LANDSCAPING
• BUILDING WORK
"ALL WORK GUARANTEED"

For a FREE ESTIMATE call Pete Woodbine
01902 563 514
07841 978496
www.pejs.co.uk
pete@pejs.co.uk

CHAS
TRUST MARK
HomePro

PEJ Driveway Services Ltd
Factory Locks Industrial Estate, Factory Road, Tipton DY4 9AU

Labour MPs in call for £44m more police funds

LABOUR MPs in the West Midlands have launched a campaign for £44 million extra funding for the region's force.

The group says the cash will allow West Midlands Police to fund 500 extra frontline officers, 100 PCSOs and halt police station closures.

Birmingham MP Jack Dromey has tabled an early day motion in the House of Commons, which has been backed by MPs including Ian Austin (Dudley North), Valerie Vaz (Walsall South) and Adrian Bailey (West Bromwich West).

Mr Dromey says he is seeking cross party support and argued that 'lower crime, lower risk' areas such as Surrey received more funding in relation to their population and level of crime, at the expense of the West Midlands.

Threats

He said: "West Midlands Police is underfunded by £44 million, according to the Home Office's own indicators. This funding is going to areas with lower threats and less crime like Surrey. It just doesn't make sense and is simply unfair.

"West Midlands Labour MPs have launched a campaign to make sure West Midlands Police gets the funding it requires. I want MPs from all parties to get behind this plan to protect West Midlands Police and keep people safe."

Powers are used to remove camp

COUNCIL and police officers have again used powers to ban unauthorised encampments from the borough after a group set up camp on Galton Bridge station's car park.

Six caravans moved onto the council's Independent Living Centre in Oldbury Road in Smethwick late last Tuesday, before moving onto the railway station car park opposite.

They were visited by council officers and police in the morning and the occupants were given two hours to either leave or move to the transit site – where rent of £80 a week and a £250 deposit must be paid for each caravan.

After two hours, the group were still on the car park. Police were then able to use their Section 62 powers and the group left.

Man, 30, stabbed

A 30-YEAR-OLD man was stabbed in the leg when a gang forced their way into a house in Charles Avenue, Rowley Regis, just before 4.30pm on Friday. The victim, aged 30, was taken to hospital but later discharged.

Work is set to start on new NEC hotel

An artist's impression of the Moxy

THE start-date for construction of a new hotel based on the National Exhibition Centre campus has been confirmed for June 2018.

Planning permission was secured earlier this year from Solihull Council by Dutch-based developers, Vastint Hospitality. Branded as a Moxy Hotel, a Marriott International lifestyle brand, it will be built over eight floors, provide 224 bedrooms and is due to open in mid-2019.

A pioneering construction technique will be used to maximise the build speed, increase quality and improve site safety. This involves modular cross-laminated timber pods being manufactured in Italy and then transported in sections and assembled on site.

The hotel complements significant investment on the Birmingham NEC campus over recent years, including the £150 million Resorts World complex that opened in late 2015. A Bear Grylls Adventure, to be operated by Merlin Entertainments, will open on the site later this year.

John Hornby, NEC Group's chief operating officer said: "This new hotel is an excellent addition to our site's profile and will complement the existing range of hotels on site and in the surrounding area. As well as adding much-needed hotel room capacity, it will bring a fresh and vibrant ambience and experience for the six million visitors and guests attending the NEC, the Genting Arena and Birmingham Resorts World each year.

"The next phase of our masterplan will be the arrival of Merlin's Bear Grylls Adventure family leisure attraction this autumn. That attraction will work well with The Moxy Hotel."

Sky lanterns fire danger about to be snuffed out

A BAN on sky lanterns could be brought in nearly five years on from one of the biggest fires the region has ever seen.

Sandwell Council is to debate bringing in a policy to outlaw all sky lanterns at a cabinet meeting next month.

It comes nearly five years on from a fire at Jayplas Ltd in Smethwick where a single lantern destroyed the recycling plant.

Councillor Elaine Costigan, cabinet member for health and wellbeing, said: "We want a policy in place so that if anyone comes to Sandwell we won't be letting them set off sky lanterns."

It is a move that West Midlands Fire Service said it would support.

More than 200 firefighters attended the scene of the Jayplas fire in Dartmouth Road in 2013, which caused £6 million worth of damage and shut the plastics and paper recycling plant for more than six months.

Damage

A spokesman for the fire service said: "Whilst sky lanterns are a popular and beautiful sight, the potential damage they can cause is significant. They're not only a fire hazard but also a danger to livestock, agriculture, camping activities, thatched properties and hazardous material sites.

"We don't support the use of these devices and we urge members of the public and event organisers not to use them," the spokesman added.

"We would support the decision of any council that proposes a ban."

Councillor Costigan said sites such as Sandwell Valley Park, which is located next to Sandwell Park Farm, were the kinds of area where lanterns are set off.

She added that the council is keen to address the situation before the summer holidays, when lanterns are often set off during events and parties.

Staffordshire County Council banned the use of sky lanterns on council-owned property after the Jayplas fire in June 2013.

Tesco and Poundland are among the retailers to have stopped selling them.

Handing over the Games baton

Mayor Anne Underwood, right, with Commonwealth Games Federation President Louise Martin, left, and Commonwealth Games England chair Ian Metcalfe

BE proud Brummies' was the message for Birmingham as it prepared to take on the status of Commonwealth Games host city.

The XXI Games on Australia's Gold Coast closed on Sunday and, while Birmingham cannot boast miles of sun-drenched beaches, it can show the diversity of the Commonwealth and the city in the 2022 event.

Birmingham's Lord Mayor Anne Underwood, who was at the closing ceremony, told the crowds: "We are a very young and diverse city – we will showcase our city's youth and diversity."

A 15-minute film was screened at the Gold Coast's Carrara Stadium as well as TV audiences around the Commonwealth telling the story of the city and its people.

The footage was shown to ELO's Mr Blue Sky. In Victoria Square, youngsters gathered for an ambitious choreographed sequence.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Policing concerns after stab attack

FEARS have been raised over the pressures facing policing after a man was stabbed in Darlaston.

It comes after West Midlands Police called on an 'army of volunteers' to join up to swell ranks.

A man was found with a stab wound to his chest in Dangerfield Lane on April 4 at 4.40pm. He was taken to hospital. His injuries were not described as serious.

Labour councillor Doug James said: "This is an issue which concerns me greatly – I can't see how volunteers can take the role of tackling knife-wielding yobs. This must be considered very carefully."

Man trapped in car after crash

A MAN was taken to hospital after he was trapped in a car following a crash in New Birmingham Road, Tividale.

The accident happened on Saturday, with emergency services called at 10.34am. Another man and two women were out of the vehicles when emergency crews arrived.

A fire service spokesman said: "One man who was trapped by his injuries went to hospital. One man and two women self-extricated before we got there." The fire service attended alongside police and ambulance crews and the air ambulance.

Man tried to take phone into prison

A SERIAL criminal from Smethwick who bungled a bid to smuggle a phone into a women's prison has been jailed for nine months after a trial.

David Scarlett dropped it while being searched as he prepared to visit an inmate at Foston Hall in Derbyshire on August 14. The 37-year-old from Grenfell Drive, with previous convictions for 44 offences, claimed the phone belonged to someone else but CCTV told a different story, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

He denied taking a forbidden article into a prison but was convicted.

Museum open day is all about buses

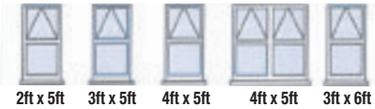
PUBLIC transport that has graced the streets for more than 70 years will be the focus of an open day.

Aston Manor Transport Museum, in Aldridge near Walsall, will be showcasing buses at its Spring Running Day on Sunday.

Admission is £5 for adults, £2 children and £13 for a family.

For further information call 01922 454761, email amrtm1@aol.co.uk or go to amrtm.org/events/apr-2018

ADVANCE WINDOW systems Ltd
Est 1997
Tel/Fax: 0121 565 0033 / Mobile: 07752 921 699
Unit 12A Pope Street, Smethwick B66 2JP
A CHOICE OF ANY OF THESE 5 COMPOSITE DOOR DESIGNS SUPPLIED AND FITTED
£725
(includes chrome or gold hardware)

5 WINDOWS FOR £825
FULLY GLAZED

2ft x 5ft 3ft x 5ft 4ft x 5ft 4ft x 5ft 3ft x 6ft
Patio Slider £525

2000mm
1800mm
French Doors £475

2000mm
1200mm
White PVC, White Handle. Fully Glazed

KITCHENS | BATHROOMS | BEDROOMS

10 REASONS TO HAVE AN IDEAL HOMECARE BATHROOM / KITCHEN / BEDROOM
1 Family business established over 28 years
2 Vast majority of work comes from recommendations
3 FREE home design service, we listen to you and design to your requirements
4 Large choice of design, 100s of doors, worktops, tiles, sinks and taps to choose from, but do not worry, we are here to help and advise what is right for you
5 We project manage from start to finish
6 We can supply only, or complete the whole project, including tiling, electrics, plumbing, building, plastering and even decorating
7 All rubbish removed at the end of the project
8 Gas Safe fitters (formerly Corgi)
9 NICEIC Registered electricians
10 Quality products at realistic prices
www.idealhomecare.co.uk
Ideal Homecare
The Home Improvement Specialist
5 Hall Green Road, Stone Cross, West Bromwich, B71 3JS
Telephone: 0121 588 5737
OPENING TIMES:
Mon-Fri 10am -4pm
Saturday 10am-2pm
Closed Wed and Sun
Other Times By Appointment

COUNTY NEWS

Metro numbers 'balancing out'

BOSSES at Midland Metro have said passenger numbers had started to 'balance out', after a drop in January – particularly on weekends.

Sophie Allison, Metro operations manager, said the figures were starting to come back to where they expect at last week's West Midlands Combined Authority's Transport Delivery Committee meeting.

The figures showed that the network saw a nine per cent fall in travelling customers in January 2018, compared to the same month in 2017. Passenger numbers were at 597,326 in January, compared to 653,085 12 months previously.

Homes demand in 7th monthly fall

BUYER demand for housing in the West Midlands continues to fall, new data reveals.

The RICS UK Residential Market survey reports buyer demand has dropped for the seventh consecutive month in the region. It revealed one of the main reasons was a lack of fresh stock coming onto the West Midlands' market, alongside ongoing concerns over affordability as house prices continued to rise.

Average stock levels on estate agents' books remains near an all-time low as the number of houses being put up for sale fell for the 30th consecutive month.

Push the Boat Out and try sailing

SAILORS and surfers can test their skills on the water next month. The Royal Yachting Association's Push the Boat Out scheme will allow novices to try sailing and windsurfing for free throughout May.

Events will be held at Himley Hall Sailing Club, Sandwell Valley Sailing Club, Dudley Sailing Club, Aldridge Sailing Club, Walsall's The Chase Sailing Club, South Staffordshire Sailing Club and Penkridge's Greensforge Sailing Club.

Third of landlords looking for tenants

THE number of landlords experiencing a void period in the West Midlands in the past three months matched the national average of 35 per cent.

The UK Association of Letting Agents said 63 per cent of time when properties were empty were due to natural tenant changeover.

The North East and North West experienced the highest level of voids at 53 per cent.

Praise for council's safeguarding

SANDWELL Council's safeguarding work to protect and care for vulnerable adults has been praised in a report by experts in the field.

A special team visited in January and met with more than 70 people as part of a 'peer challenge' review of the ways Sandwell deals with adult safeguarding issues.

The peer challenge highlighted many positive areas of good practice and policy which the team will now share with other authorities across the West Midlands.

The assessment was completed by the West Midlands Directors of Adult Social Services working with the Improvement and Efficiency West Midlands team, which works to improve services and promote good practice.

In their conclusions, they say they are very impressed with the focus and commitment on a high-risk area of work, pointing out this is critical to ensuring that the residents of Sandwell are safe.

They also highlight that the commitment is driven from a very senior level, and also due to having a Safeguarding Adults Board which is led so effectively and many talented operational leaders and managers. They said social workers were positive about working in Sandwell and felt well supported by managers.

The deprivation of liberty service – which protects vulnerable people who lack the capacity to decide on their care and treatment – was praised for providing "an excellent service to the residents in Sandwell". And, with virtually no waiting list for assessments, "would appear to be outperforming just about everywhere in the county".

Council worker to be sentenced for fraud

By Marion Brennan

A COUNCIL worker who defrauded his bosses after taking on another job with the NHS at the same time will be sentenced next month.

Peter Walker, aged 46, was employed as a people and talent development consultant by Sandwell Council whilst also working for the Black Country Partnership NHS Foundation Trust as a counsellor.

He pleaded guilty to defrauding the council on the basis that he carried out the work in his spare time, in the evenings and at weekends, rather than during his contracted hours.

Mr Mark Jackson, prosecuting, told Wolverhampton Crown Court that the basis of plea was accepted as the team Walker worked in had disbanded four years ago and none of the relevant paperwork was available.

Misleading

However the prosecution do not accept that he was entitled to keep his £27,000 pay-off after he successfully applied for redundancy in September 2014.

Walker, of Vicarage Street, Oldbury, pleaded guilty to holding down a post with the health service at the same time as being paid around £150,000 over an eight-year period to work full time for Sandwell Council.

He also admitted submitting time sheets to his bosses which he knew were untrue or misleading because of his other job.

If his defence counsel contest that he keep his redundancy payment, there will be a Newton hearing on May 1. Otherwise Walker will be sentenced on that date.

The court ordered a pre-sentence report to be prepared.

Queens ready to make a Grand entrance

Tye Harris as Tick, Jon Wetherall as Bernadette and Zachary Hollinshead as Felicia, in Priscilla Queen of the Desert

IT'S going to be a bit of a drag for West Bromwich Operatic Society, when they return to Wolverhampton Grand Theatre next week with their version of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert, the Musical.

From Tuesday to Saturday, Tye Harris will play Tick/Mitzi, John Wetherall is Bernadette and Zachary Hollinshead is Adam/Felicia – drag-queens contracted to perform at Alice Springs in the Outback of Australia.

They head west from Sydney aboard their bus, Priscilla in this fabulous and heart-warming story.

Georgie Hodson, aged 11 from Bloxwich and Luca Marandola, aged 12 from Tettenhall alternate the role of Benji, with the company is completed by a talented group of local performers.

Direction is by Ben Cole, Musical Direction is by Adam Joy and Claire Flavell is choreographer.

A spokesman said: "With a dazzling array of outrageous costumes and a hit parade of dancefloor favorites including 'Say a Little Prayer', 'Go West', 'Hot Stuff' and 'Always on My Mind', this wildly fresh and funny new musical is a journey to the heart of FABULOUS!"

Tickets for the show are on sale by visiting the Grand Theatre in person, calling 01902 42 92 12 or online at grandtheatre.co.uk.

Jasper says get checked after ops save his life

JASPER Carrott has urged people to 'get checked out' after two operations saved his life.

The Birmingham comedy star is back on the road performing four sell-out shows at The Lichfield Garrick this week – and says it is 'terrific' to be back on stage. "I've been a very lucky person. When you look at Ray Wilkins or Eric Bristow… That could have been me," said Jasper, aged 73.

"I was just fortunate that I went to the right place at the right time. I've been a lucky boy. I have to be grateful for that."

The Acocks Green-born comedian, actor and TV personality underwent two lots of surgery in August last year: an operation to clear an artery in his neck and a quadruple heart bypass. Despite this, Jasper says he is now back to normal – going to the gym three times a week, playing golf and performing live."I'm feeling absolutely fine now. Obviously it's been a bit traumatic with all that went on, but I was in good hands at The QE Hospital," added Jasper.

Jasper is now telling readers that if they have any concerns over their health they should head to their GP surgery, as it could be the difference between life and death. "If you have any doubts at all, if you a get a bit of pain or tension in everyday affairs, don't ignore it. The sooner you get it, the better it will be," he added.

"I know the NHS is swamped, but there are still facilities there to get checked out. Do not ignore it because you think it's indigestion. That's what I thought to begin with. I took indigestion tablets and it did seem to go away."

Bell End road name will stay

A STREET called Bell End is to keep its name despite a campaign for it to change, Sandwell Council said.

Residents of the street in Rowley Regis complained that it is one of the rudest road names in England and started a petition to change it in January. They claimed youngsters would be bullied at school and called on Sandwell Council to rename it because they had become a 'laughing stock'.

However the change.org petition attracted less than 200 signatures and has not been sent to the council.

A rival campaign – titled "Leave the Historic Name of Bell End Alone!" – received more than 4,800 supporters.

A Sandwell Council spokesman confirmed that Bell End would not be changing.

Hammond gets push at Albion after two years

TECHNICAL director Nick Hammond became the latest casualty of Albion's nightmare season when he was axed by the club.

Hammond's exit is the precursor to a major restructure at The Hawthorns – as the relegation-bound Baggies prepare for life in the Championship next season.

The 50-year-old leaves after just two years in the role. His position at the club had come under scrutiny after he played a key role in the disastrous appointment of Alan Pardew as head coach earlier this season.

Pardew won only one league game in four months in charge of the Baggies and the club now face relegation from the Premier League.

Hammond's exit was announced last Thursday. He was also involved in last summer's disastrous spending splurge, when Albion splashed out £40 million on new players who have failed to deliver on the pitch

His departure follows February's sacking of chief executive Martin Goodman and chairman John Williams by owner Guochuan Lai.

Mark Jenkins, who replaced Goodman as chief executive, said: "We would like to place on record our gratitude for Nick's efforts during his two years in the role."

Hammond said: "West Bromwich Albion are a great football club which I was honoured to be a part of."

Drinks firm in deal with Tesco

JUICES and juice drinks manufacturer Purity Soft Drinks expects a significant boost to its business as Tesco is to sell two of its brands nationwide.

The supermarket chain has stocked Wednesbury-based Purity's drinks at a local level for five years but a national listing could see a massive increase in sales and profits. Purity makes Juiceburst and Firefly, which use natural fruit juice and no added sugar, at its Mounts Road site.

Purity, which dates back to 1892, has also been accepted onto Tesco's Incubator Programme, a mentoring scheme for small entrepreneurial brands. Through the programme, smaller suppliers usually operating on a local level are backed by Tesco with business support and insight.

Hall movie music

AN orchestra is celebrating its sixth anniversary with a a concert full of film classics.

Jurassic World is just one of the pieces that will light up West Bromwich Town Hall on April 21.

Ex-Baggies 'millionaire' gets driving ban

James Hurst, seen in his Baggies kit

A DRINK-DRIVING footballer who police said had boasted he was a millionaire 'star' insisted he had no income and savings after appearing in court on an arrest warrant.

James Hurst, aged 26, a full-back who has played for West Bromwich Albion and more recently Wrexham AFC, was described as "arrogant" by a policewoman who breathalysed him, and he failed to turn up for a trial before Llandudno magistrates.

He was convicted of driving a Ford Focus in Wrexham with a breath-alcohol reading of 60 – the legal limit being 35 – and being drunk and disorderly last December.

Hurst had denied the charges but last Thursday pleaded guilty to failing to surrender to bail for his trial on April 5. "I was otherwise engaged," he told magistrates. During the sentencing hearing, the player was warned by the court chairman it was an offence to fill in an income form incorrectly.

When the magistrates said they did not accept his completed declaration, Hurst told court chairman Brian Cossey: "That's your problem."

He was fined £770 for drink-driving, £330 on both of the other charges, and must pay £877 costs – a total of £2,307. A 20-month driving ban was also imposed.

James Neary, prosecuting, said Hurst, of Somerville Road, Sutton Coldfield, had driven the wrong way along a one-way street, but he apologised for his mistake to a Pc and alcohol was not smelled at that stage.

Pc Sarah Smith said Hurst told her he had not drunk any alcohol because he had a match. He was allowed to turn the car around and drive off.

Pc Smith said she returned to Wr-

Driver crashed after he fled police at high speed

A YOUNG driver raced away at high speed from police after officers spotted he was struggling to peer over the steering wheel, a court heard.

Zafron Davidson claimed he 'panicked' when officers saw him driving his friend's Renault Megane and decided to flee.

But the 19-year-old was finally caught after he crashed into another car when he sped through a red light. The provisional licence holder came before Judge Simon Ward, who said he would take an 'exceptional' course by not sending the defendant to jail.

Sentencing Davidson last Wednesday, the judge added: "What you did was extremely serious. Police saw you driving and they noticed that you were hardly able to see over the top of the steering wheel.

"They wanted you to stop and you didn't. [I accept] you were driving a friend's car – you knew you weren't meant to be and your friends didn't want you to stop. You drove off, frankly at grossly excessive speeds, through the Black Country."

Davidson admitted dangerous driving, driving without insurance and driving otherwise in accordance with a licence.

He was handed a nine-month sentence, suspended for one year, along with an electronically-tagged curfew and a two-year driving ban.

The court heard Davidson was spotted driving the vehicle, with two male passengers, at about 2pm on June 6, 2016. But he raced away from police when officers tried to flag him down, reaching speeds of up to 50mph on residential streets in the region.

Davidson, of Gibbs Road, Lye, was seen overtaking vehicles dangerously, not giving way and losing control of the car.

His dangerous driving took him along streets including St John's Road in Oldbury, as well as nearby Victoria Road, Hayes Road and Queen's Road.

But he was brought to a halt when he smashed into a Fiat Punto, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard. Davidson, who suffers with sickle cell anaemia, was 'genuinely remorseful', the court was told.

Quiz competitors are good sports

Centre, compere Bob Hall, and top from left, for Stourbridge FC Craig Slater, Jon Ford, Matt Webb, Adam Bastable. Bottom, from left, for Albion, Ian Hamilton, Gary Hackett, Mark Naylor, and James Chambers

LEGENDS from West Bromwich Albion and Stourbridge FC went head-to-head in a Question of Sport evening to raise money for a local charity.

The teams of four faced off in a charity version of the BBC sports quiz with all money raised for Mary Stevens Hospice, on Thursday) in the clubhouse at Stourbridge FC's War Memorial Athletic Ground.

Fans enjoyed classic rounds including Home or Away, Sprint Finish and What Happened Next.

The event's compere was former ITV and Sky sports presenter Bob Hall.

Team WBA comprised James Chambers, Ian Hamilton, Gary Hackett and Mark Naylor, while Team Stourbridge featured Matt Webb, Adam Bastable, Jon Ford and Craig Slater.

Dan Malin, PR manager for Mary Stevens Hospice, said: "It was a fantastic event and everyone was nice and competitive.

"Around £700 was raised in total."

NEWS IN BRIEF

M6 lane shuts after collision

A LORRY and two cars were involved in a crash which closed a lane on a motorway. The cars suffered serious damage following the smash on the hard shoulder of the M6, between Junctions 8 and 9 near Great Barr, but nobody was seriously hurt.

The crash happened at around 11.15pm on Tuesday. Both cars were left wrecked near the side wall of the motorway.

One person was checked over by paramedics at the scene. A lane was cordoned off as emergency services dealt with the crash. A West Midlands Fire Service spokesman said: "No persons were trapped."

Professor joins uni's HS2 team

A UNIVERSITY professor has joined a HS2 team to lead on digital connectivity. Professor Clive Roberts, from the University of Birmingham, has been brought on board as the university aims to get the benefits from the arrival of high-speed rail.

Professor Roberts was identified as the ideal candidate based on his vast experience gained as professor of railway systems at the university.

He said: "It is an honour and privilege to be involved in a project that will revolutionise rail travel in the UK."

Driver delays with closure for works

PARTS of a busy road is closed for several months due to ongoing gas works.

The junction of Soho Road, going onto Oakfield Road in Smethwick, will have a lane closure until July 4.

Cadent Gas is carrying out maintenance to replace old gas pipes with more durable plastics ones.

A Cadent spokesman said: "This is to ensure we continue to provide safe and reliable gas supplies to local businesses and residents."

Parts of Oakfield Road will also have a road closure.

Debbie McGee joins Sleeping Beauty cast

DEBBIE McGee will star in Wolverhampton's pantomime Sleeping Beauty this December.

The wife of late magic icon Paul Daniels will join Black Country comedienne Doreen Tipton and Ian Adams for the show that comes to Wolverhampton Grand Theatre this Christmas. Chief executive and artistic director of the Grand, Adrian Jackson, said: "Debbie will certainly add extra sparkle to this year's pantomime."

IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

Sour note as speed bumps go musical

NOW this is what you call traffic management. In an attempt to get motorists to stick to the speed limit, local bigwigs representing Jelsum in the Netherlands had the bright idea of installing musical rumble strips along the road into the village.

When cars drive over the strips at the correct speed of 40mph, sensors in the road activate chimes which reward the driver by playing the Friesland provincial anthem. You don't think they had been smoking anything unusual before the meeting, do you?

Still, it sounds a sight more fun than the infuriating speed humps, barriers, chicanes and white paint we get in this country. However, it does not seem to be music to the ears of residents, who complained of being kept awake by the continuous droning which travels right the way through the village.

One resident complained of artistic taxi drivers going back and forth all night at varying speeds to produce their own arrangements.

"Last Saturday night the taxis were driving from Leeuwarden to Stiens and on the way back, they tried to go across the lines as quickly as possible and we had the anthem playing all night at high speed," said one.

Some people will complain about anything, won't they? They ought to try living along some of our country lanes, where drivers crash over the massive potholes day and night. Not nearly so tuneful.

❒❒❒

AFTER years in the wilderness, it looks like the Black Country could soon be back on the national railway map. Well sort of. Seven new stations are being considered for the West Midlands, including the reopening of Darlaston and Willenhall stations. This sounds like great news.

I do worry about plans for a new service linking Wolverhampton to the Merry Hill shopping centre, though, with no mention whatsoever of a stop at Dudley along the way. Town centres have it tough enough as it is, without giving Wulfrunians an easy route to an out-of-town shopping centre. I fear that can only suck more life out of the city. And if you are going to create this service, why wouldn't you have a station in Dudley, next to the zoo, Black Country Museum and, dare we say it, the Hippodrome theatre? So much for creating a major tourist zone.

Interestingly, while Dudley Zoo appears to have been overlooked, rail chiefs are keen to provide a service to West Midland Safari Park. So, you get off the train, pay your admission, and walk straight into the lion enclosure. Remind me to bring my camcorder.

'Men deserts' – where young boys lack role models

Eric Bristow – achieved an unexpected immortality 8,000 miles away

Peter Kay – no leak on what was the unforeseen family circumstances

David Lammy – Tottenham MP, was understandably emotional over death toll rise

Rising death toll and the absent fathers

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

AS the death toll rises on London's streets, the commonest cry is "Where are you?" David Lammy, the black MP for Tottenham, was understandably emotional as he yelled: "Why is there a political vacuum? Where is the Prime Minister? Where is the Home Secretary? Where is Sadiq Khan?" A street demo took up the cry for the guilty missing: "Where are the police, where are the pastors?" And yet no-one shouted the most crucial question of all. Where are the fathers?

TIME after time, academic studies of gang culture in black communities highlight the huge numbers of absent fathers. Some neighbourhoods are dubbed "men deserts" because most households are run by a woman and young black boys have no role models in the home. David Lammy knows all about it; his own father walked out on the family and fled to America. Why are politicians so reluctant to mention this issue? Probably because they are instantly howled down and accused of attacking, undermining and disrespecting single mothers. But as Lammy wrote in the Daily Telegraph six years ago: "Many single mothers do a heroic job looking after their families . . . but it becomes twice as hard to set boundaries with half the number of parents." And while more cops, more pastors and more interest from politicians might help London's agony, it is hard to see any end to the carnage when so many dads are missing and no-one is setting any boundaries.

I WROTE recently ago about my Saturday job as a 15-year-old mechanic's mate. Jim the mechanic taught me a lesson which has stood me in good stead. It is this: if you dismantle something and then reassemble it, there will always be a few bits left over. I hope this brings some comfort to those of you who, as spring arrives, have been trying to fix the lawnmower.

I THOUGHT the public sector was being educated to address people correctly. A reader tells me he has a relative in hospital in East Anglia. Every time he telephones the place he is greeted with "Allo, moi luvverly."

YOU may think we live in a world where the all-prying internet lays bare all our deepest secrets. Is nothing confidential any more? And then you think of Peter Kay, currently launching the third and final series of Car Share. In December last year Kay suddenly announced: "Due to unforeseen family circumstances, I deeply regret that I am having to cancel all of my upcoming work projects." And from that day to this no-one has discovered what the unforeseen family circumstances were. Not a leak, not a peep. Extraordinary.

TALKING of which, here's a new advert: It's the deadliest nerve agent ever invented! It penetrates the latest protective suits! A single drop can kill an entire army in seconds! Especially effective against old Russians and their daughters! Novichok - it doesn't do exactly what it says on the tin.

THE Salisbury incident is turning into a sort of test of patriotism. If you believe the official government line, then you are a good egg. If you happen to think, like Mr Corbyn and me, that the speculation and accusations should not have raced ahead of the hard evidence, you are a 'useful idiot' doing the Kremlin's work. I am expecting a sackful of roubles any day now.

A SURVEY by a mineral-water company suggests mosts Brits are stuck in a Groundhog Day existence, endlessly repeating the same conversations, same breakfasts, same dinner, same holiday destinations, same advice to children, and so on. But what has any of this to do with bottled water? A spokeswoman for the company declares: "We're all naturally driven to make the most of every day and being properly hydrated helps us get there." Advertising – same old cobblers.

ERIC Bristow has died far too soon but the darts legend may have achieved an unexpected immortality 8,000 miles away. In the Falkland Islands, the helicopters used by civilians and UK military in the years after the 1982 war were provided by the aviation company Bristow. Inevitably, the squaddies called the helicopters Erics and, all these years later, the term is still in use.

JEREMY Clarkson tells the story of a lad who was horrified to find so many deductions from his first wage packet. It was explained that this money was taken to pay for hospital, schools and so on. The boy accepted it stoically. But the next week, when his second wage packet arrived, he rang home in despair: "Mum - they've done it again."

MICE have reappeared in our house, the garden is full of rabbits, a pheasant has built a nest under one window and the other night a rat wandered across the yard. What has changed? It is six weeks since our old tabby cat died.

TALKING POINT

Response to the bad weather is – panic!

WITH temperatures creeping up, daffodils out and a promise that spring might actually be here, it is time to reflect on this miserable wintertime.

Snow, wind, rain, floods we have had it all. So what have we learnt during these bleak winter days? Personally, I have discovered the following 10 things:

1 There is a Beast of the East. He has rarely troubled us in the past but after the first rampage he got a taste for mayhem and misery and decided to come back and the mini beasts were also fearsome.

2 There are different kinds of snow. Apparently you can have 3ft of snow in the back garden but may not be able to build a decent snowman. Snow from the east seems to be very fine.

3 Our country is no longer equipped to deal with rain or thawing snow. Any persistent rain will lead to flood alerts and sewage floating into someone's back garden.

4 Britain's roads are in no state to handle bad weather. Whatever the weather may bring over winter we can be sure that we will be left with roads resembling the surface of the Moon. And there is nothing a pothole loves more than a puddle to hide in.

5 Despite snow, black ice or flood water there will always be one arrogant motorist who will drive at the speed limit – at a minimum – because a bit of bad weather isn't going to stop them. This persists even if it means they are driving so close that they are forcing you out of the narrow snow tracks while they overtake, or your car is drowned as they steam through flood waters.

6 In snow, black ice or flood water there will always be one terrified driver who should not have left the house and is clutching the steering wheel in fear, barely clocking up 10mph. This means you are struggling to maintain a braking distance and are forced out of the narrow snow tracks or into a deeper part of the puddle to overtake.

7 It does not actually have to snow for schools to shut, the mere threat is enough for the circulation of 'school closure' texts. And don't assume just because the teachers have made it in that your children will be allowed to stay in school.

8 The slightest incline that you have never even noticed before becomes equivalent to the Eiger for any HGVs or buses when covered in snow/ice.

9 HGVs and buses should not go out when roads are covered in snow and particularly not in hilly Staffordshire

10 However much warning we are given there will only ever be one response from us Brits - panic!

DIANE DAVIES

BETTA QUALITY BUILDINGS

SHEDS • GARAGES • GARDEN ROOMS • LOG CABINS

The Dalbury Garden Room

Free Laminate Flooring & External Paint
Prices start from £2600

Wooden Sheds
HUGE RANGE

Delivered & Fitted
from £274

Summer Houses
FREE FITTING

Delivered & Fitted
from £599

Concrete Garages
FREE FITTING

Delivered & Fitted
from £1657

Log Cabins & Garden Rooms
VIEW ONLINE

Fitting service available
Wall Log 44mm T&G
Double Glazed
from £1971

• Old Buildings Removed • Asbestos Disposal • Base Laying Service • Free Quotations • Made to Measure • Lined and Insulated Options • Quality at Competitive Prices • Huge Range

Show site (open 7 days): Tildasley Street, West Bromwich B70 9SJ
Visit our website: www.bettabuildings.co.uk
0121 553 4682
BETTA BUILDINGS

Festival chaos in Aynuk and Ayli tradition

THE reason that Black Country people used to be the butt of jokes reflecting their stupidity, can be seen in the light of the following examples based on the concept of festival phenomenon.

There will be many such festivals devoted to specific genres – motor racing, horse racing, two major rock concerts, a folk song festival to name but a few.

What all these well-known festivals have in common, is that the title of each venue takes its name from the host city (for instance, the Cheltenham Festival). They last two to three days at the venue which serves as an annual focal point for those who have a devoted interest in the events they have come to see.

Contrast the above with the so-called Black Country Festival later in the year. The area covered will be 38 square miles, the time span 31 days and nine of the so-called events took place between 1pm and 5pm, when the most active people are at work!

Two years ago, some people were being encouraged to 'become friends of the women chainmakers'.

Of course, they didn't exist anymore. You may laugh, outsiders, but in addition to the above, there is the problem of accessing events that may be of interest to the reader, but this depends where it is being held.

Rhetorical questions could be 'how do you get from Lye to Tipton for the fun fair?' 'How do you get from Langley to Cradley Heath?'

People say that the Black Country we older ones remember, no longer exists. But there seems to be one thing that will never die – the successors of Aynuk and Ayli will see to that.

IVOR MORGAN
West Bromwich

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
Sandwell Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL
graeme.andrew@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Code of Practice:
Our policy is to correct errors as soon as we can. The Chronicles adhere to the Editors' Code of Practice, which can be seen at www.ipso.co.uk.
If you are unhappy with the accuracy of a story, write to The Editor, Chronicles, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES. If we cannot reach a resolution contact Ipso at complaints@ipso.co.uk or by post at Ipso, c/o Gate House, 1 Farringdon Street, London, EC4M 7LG

PM should be praised on Russia

BRIAN Osborne and Shaun Harrison both denounce Theresa May for 'wrongly' accusing Russia of the nerve gas poisoning in Salisbury.

I would remind them both that this is not an isolated incident. A few years earlier a similar attack was made in London using a radioactive substance which resulted in the death of another Russian. Our investigators at the time named a suspect and asked for his extradition for questioning which President Putin has ignored.

Do these two writers think a Prime Minister would make such a grave accusation without much thought and advice? Mrs May should be applauded for standing up to such bullying.

As for the remarks by Shaun Harrison about Harry and William, I am sure that they have done more in the service and promotion of this country than he ever has.

JOHN CHAMBERLAIN
Great Barr

City's hospital site is too overcrowded

AFTER reading New Cross Hospital bosses are going to spend £3.5m on a car park, I would firstly ask the question where is it going on this already overcrowded site? Maybe close one of the car parks already in use for about two years? Where will patients park while this is going on?

But the real reason for the over-crowded hospital is that, in their wisdom, these experts decided to put all the services onto one site i.e. the eye infirmary, the maternity, the heart and lung, the A&E dept, plus many more.

New Cross is always going to be under pressure until the size of it is greatly reduced, but why build more car parks? Why not build some bike sheds and we can all use the 'Boris Bikes'?

MR J WHEELER
Wednesbury

It's time the jail term fit the crime

IS it not time that the sentence fits the crime? Over the last 12 months we have read and heard of another person stabbed to death, along with numerous deaths caused by drunken or dangerous driving.

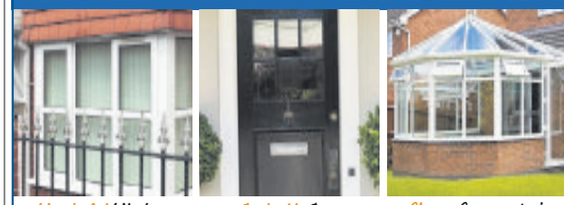
If you carry a knife, it's for one reason only, and that is to intimidate or cause bodily harm, it's no good protesting your innocence once you have used a knife to take someone's life.

This also goes for any person who takes a life by deliberately driving whilst under the influence of drink or drugs, along with dangerous driving. All these offences should be classed as murder. It's no good giving these people a slap on the wrist, or giving them a couple of years in a cushy jail.

Murder is murder. They should get a minimum jail term of 30 years, and if there is more than one fatality then the sentence should reflect this fact.

KEITH V JOYCE
Wednesbury

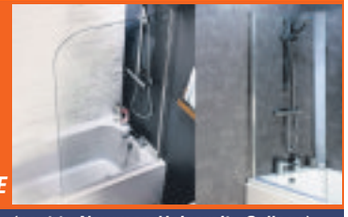
LARGE DISCOUNTS THIS SPRING
FOR APRIL INSTALLATIONS
CLIENT PEACE OF MIND FROM
Windows
Composite Doors
Porches
Patio Doors
Conservatories
Window & Door Repairs
Fascias / Guttering
Building Work
Misted-up Units

ALL INSTALLATIONS PROJECT MANAGED FROM START TO FINISH

Wonderful Windows
Desirable Doors
Classy Conservatories
Window Warehouse (Sandwell) Ltd
97 Park Lane, Langley, Oldbury B69 4LP
www.window-warehouse.com email: windowwarehouses@btconnect.com
Visit our showroom: Mon-Fri 8am-5pm Sat 9am-1pm
Established over 20 years
Tel: 0121 544 2222

FurnitureClinic
Leather Care & Repair Specialists
Professional cleaning, repair & restoration service for all items of leather, fabric and wood.
Leather Cleaning | Leather Repairs | Colour Restoration | Fabric Cleaning | Re-Upholstery | Foam Repairs | Stitch Repairs
Furniture | Car Interiors | Contract Seating
Items can be repaired on site or larger jobs can be taken back to our workshop. We cover the West Midlands including Birmingham, Dudley, Wolverhampton, Worcester and Walsall, offering excellent service to our business and domestic clients.
www.furnitureclinic.co.uk
Birmingham Unit 23, Bloomfield Park, Bloomfield Road, Tipton, DY4 9AH
Tel: 0121 274 0335 / 07436 816975
Email: birmingham@furnitureclinic.co.uk

ubhi's
KITCHENS & FURNITURE

Worktop Clearance Now On
40TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY, 40% OFF
DESIGN AND FITTING SERVICE
Est Since 1978
www.ubhikitchens.co.uk email:ubhis@outlook.com
Britannia Street, Tividale Oldbury, West Midlands B69 2PG
Tel: 0121 557 7222
Find us on

PLUMBMASTER
SUPPLIERS TO TRADE AND PUBLIC
• Complete central heating and parts available
• Taps • Towel rails • Showers
• Kitchen Units• Fascias & guttering
• Bathroom Suites

FREE QUOTES FREE DELIVERY
Curved/Square Top Bath Screen
£49.99 LIFETIME GUARANTEE
6 Genners Lane, Bartley Green, Birmingham, B32 3JL (next to Newman University College)
Open Mon - Fri 8.30am - 5.00pm, Sat 8.30am - 1.00pm 0121 475 1112
Gas and Electricity Safety Certificate

Paying to use bus station loo is insulting – councillor

THE installation of paid toilet facilities at West Bromwich bus station has been described as 'insulting to communities' by a councillor during a region-wide transport meeting.

The project to refurbish the toilets at West Bromwich bus station was discussed as part of the Transport for West Midlands Infrastructure Report at the West Midlands Combined Authority's Transport Delivery Committee meeting which took place last Monday.

The current facilities at the station receive poor customer feedback and works to refurbish the facilities are expected to be carried out over the next six months. The project would include upgrades to all fabrics, water efficiency measures, flooring, ventilation and the installation of pay-to-use toilet turnstiles.

A major revamp to Walsall's busiest bus station is also expected to see the introduction of a pay-to-use turnstile in the toilets.

Pay-to-use toilets are already installed at Stourbridge and Wolverhampton bus stations.

Councillor Judith Rowley said: "To charge for toilets is insulting to our communities.

"It is a public health issue. If there are no toilets to be accessed we all know what is going to happen. It is a whole load of tosh."

Councillor Roger Horton also said he did not agree on charging people to use the facilities.

Councillor Keith Linnecor added: "You should have the opportunity to use a public service."

Andrew Thrupp, from Transport for West Midlands, said: "Toilet turnstiles are not a money-making scheme. It is improving customer experience, reducing anti-social behaviour and maintaining the high standards."

NHS team in line for HR award

BLACK Country Partnership NHS Foundation Trust is celebrating after its Human Resources team were shortlisted for HR Team of the Year at the Healthcare People Management Association Awards 2018.

The team based in West Bromwich outlined significant achievements over the last two years during a period of uncertainty and limited resources.

The HPMA Excellence Awards 2018 aims to recognise and reward the outstanding work in healthcare human resource management.

Judy Griffiths, Associate Director of Human Resources said, "It's an honour to lead the HR team and we are all very proud of the work that has been undertaken in the team.

"Being shortlisted of this national award is a real achievement. It is a real boost to the HR team."

Deeply Dippy about skeleton on tour

The diplodocus skeleton which will be on display at the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery

A FORTHCOMING dinosaur exhibition at a museum is proving hugely popular with a big demand for tickets.

Dippy the Dinosaur, the famous 70 foot plaster cast replica of a Diplodocus skeleton will be at Birmingham's Museum and Art Gallery from May 26 to September 9. It's free to see Dippy but museum bosses expect it to be very busy so visitors can only get in with a timed ticket.

Dippy had been on display at the Natural History Museum in London since 1979, but was replaced with the real skeleton of a blue whale.

Lucky people can also Dine with Dippy at a shared dinner party at Gas Hall in Birmingham on June 7 and 14.

A museum spokesman said: "You will need to have a ticket booked to be able to see the exhibition. Weekends have booked up very quickly as they have been most popular. Not all dinosaurs became extinct 65 million years. One group survived and evolved into the birds we know today."

Tables of 10 are available for £700 per table, with the price including arrival drinks, canapés, three courses, tea and coffee, half bottle of wine per person, unlimited mineral water, table decoration and a Dippy-themed gift.

The Diplodocus lived in what's now North America at the end of the Jurassic period. There were several species.

Visit nhm.ac.uk to find out more.

Talks to start with family of Cyrille on tram

THE way is now clear for the family of Cyrille Regis to be approached for discussions on naming a Midland Metro tram after the late footballer.

Bosses at the West Midlands Combined Authority, responsible for the Metro, are looking at naming a tram after Baggies legend Cyrille, who died in January, aged 59.

Members of the WMCA discussed the criteria for naming the fleet of 21 trams – which is expected to grow to 70 by 2026 – when they met for a Transport Delivery Committee meeting last Monday. Councillor Roger Horton, who is lead member for the rail and Metro on the West Midlands Combined Authority, had previously raised the idea to name a tram after Cyrille. It was supported by other members.

Talks with Cyrille's family are now expected to take place, before an official decision will be made.

Cyrille played for West Bromwich Albion, Wolverhampton Wanderers and Aston Villa. Thousands of people attended a celebration of the footballer's life at the Hawthorns, where he first played in 1977.

Just two of the Urbos trams have been named so far – one after regional transport chief Angus Adams, who died four years ago, and another after Brummie rock legend Ozzy Osbourne.

Bedtime stories to be told at Bensons

BENSONS for Beds has rescheduled its bedtime stories event to this Saturday after the original date was postponed due to snow.

Nikky Smedley, who played Laa Laa in The Teletubbies, is making a special appearance to read stories at the Wednesbury store's event taking place from 10am to 1pm.

CCTV appeal as cash stolen from handbag

The two women who police are keen to speak to in connection with the theft from a woman's handbag

POLICE are continuing to appeal to the public to help identify two female suspects who were alleged to have stolen cash from a shopper in a supermarket.

A 59-year-old woman withdrew a large quantity of cash at a bank in Bearwood on January 22, and put it in her bag before going shopping.

Two women approached her when she visited Aldi and cash was stolen from her handbag.

Sandwell Police has now released images of the two women they are keen to speak in connection with the theft.

Anyone who recognises the pair should call West Midlands Police on 101, quoting incident reference number 20SW/18679N/18.

Details can also be left with the Crimestoppers charity anonymously on 0800 555111.

Information can be emailed to police investigator Andrew Spooner on a.spooner@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk

Authority probe into ex-leader costs £579k

A COUNCIL-FUNDED investigation into a former leader who abused his position cost taxpayers more than £500,000.

The Wragge Report and legal proceedings paid out in relation to Councillor Mahboob Hussain cost the public purse £579,384.

The report claimed Councillor Hussain allegedly quashed parking tickets for family members and was involved in the sale of council-owned toilet blocks.

By Jamie Brassington

Sandwell Council's own ethical standards committee later found he had breached the council code of conduct on both counts.

Councillor Hussain, a former deputy leader of Sandwell Council and currently an Oldbury ward councillor, was ordered to attend training sessions as punishment by the committee. He will not be standing for re-election in May.

Sandwell Council leader Steve Eling said: "These investigation are horrendously expensive but the cost of the Wragge Report does not surprise me.

"The investigation has taken years and has cost a fortune. If it was down to me it would have taken a few weeks and taken a fraction of the cost."

Councillor Hussain tried to quash the report's publication by making a legal challenge through the courts.

But it was thrown out by the High Court. Mr Justice Green ruled that there was a 'powerful public interest' in a 'thorough and fair' investigation.

The council is trying to recover around £130,000 from legal costs through the courts. Councillor Hussain has already paid around £50,000. The cost of the Wragge Report alone stands at £181,668.50, an FOI has revealed.

WE WANT YOUR GOLD!!

WANTED

BEST PRICES PAID ON GOLD, SILVER, COINS, PLATINUM, PALLADIUM AND WATCHES

See our website for up to date prices

NEWLY REFURBISHED JEWELLERS

BEST RATES ON EUROS AND DOLLARS

WE BUY BACK ALL CURRENCIES

GUARANTEED

Value for Money at

Bowjangles

Wednesbury (M6 J9)

15 Market Place, Wednesbury WS10 7AY

Tel: 0121 556 6868

Find us on Facebook at BowjanglesJewellery

www.jewellersmidlands.co.uk

In Partnership with Trading Standards

NO ROGUE TRADERS HERE

www.safer.to

Trading Standards Approved Traders

What We Do

Do you worry when choosing a trader? No Rogue Traders Here works with Trading Standards to provide consumers with fully vetted and approved traders. Traders are: bankruptcy and identity checked; address and insurance verified; quality and price monitored; interviewed and Trading Standards approved.

How It Works

Just contact us by phone or on our website, tell us what type of service you want and before you know it we'll be back with a recommendation of businesses that are continually monitored by us and approved by Trading Standards.

Consumer Confidence

With so much to offer, No Rogue Traders Here is the perfect solution for when you need the services of a Trading Standards approved trader minus all the hassle.

• Builders • Roofers • Plumbers • Double Glazing • Tree Surgeons • Central Heating & Boilers • Electricians • Carpenters • Decorators • Kitchens • Bathrooms • Driveways • Landscapers • Carpet & Upholstery Cleaners

0800 233 5000

ADVERTISEMENT

Make your home warmer, quieter and safer

Market leading Stourbridge double glazing business Carera Windows has fitted more than half a million quality windows and doors over the past 28 years.

The company based in Junction Road, Audnam, started out 28 years ago to serve the Stourbridge area but as it has grown it has moved on to serve neighbouring areas including Halesowen, Kidderminster, Bromsgrove and Worcester.

The business moved to its present base 20 years ago. Carera offer a full range of windows and doors and also install a full range of conservatories, orangeries and living spaces.

Happy

The company prides itself on having a depth of knowledge in all aspects of the products it offers and industry regulations. The company is fully conversant with all current regulations within the industry. A key aim is to provide a level of customer service that is second to none. More than 70 per cent of all Carera Windows' home sales come via personal recommendation from happy clients, which number many thousands. It takes pride in completing every project to the highest standard.

From the start, Carera is committed to offering only top-quality products, expert installations and unbeatable personal service to both private and commercial customers. Its experienced team is committed to working closely with local authorities, education authorities, landlords, architects and contractors on its commercial work. Carera Windows is keen to get involved in any kind of commercial project from industrial units to office conversions, new build to refurbishments and renovations.

The company's showroom at its base is open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm and Saturday, 10am to 4pm. It offers a wide range of products in various sizes and colours, manufactured using PVCu, aluminium, GRP and hardwood. Carera also installs entrance doors, sliding patio doors, french double doors and porches.

Carera Windows was started by owner and managing director Mark Crumpton in 1989, originally from home as a small enterprising double glazing company supplying the local area. Its housing association glazing contracts and commercial premises work now also takes the business across the country. Carera prides itself on offering honest and professional expert advice, installing 100 per cent high quality products, sensible prices and outstanding customer service.

It has become a market leader in its area and aims to provide a friendly service without hard sell.

Carera can supply and fit from a single window to complex orangeries and no job is to small or to large for it. The company controls every aspect of its projects.

Carera Windows has fitted more than half a million quality windows and doors

Carera prides itself on offering honest and professional expert advice

Spring SPECIALS

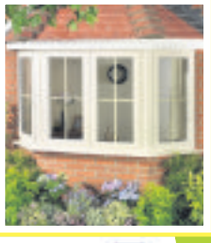
- Top Quality A Rated Products At Great Prices
- Yale Locking Systems
- Swish Window & Door Systems
- Payment On Completion
- Full 10 Year Guarantee
- No Deposit Required

Call us NOW

Make the right choice for your new windows, conservatories, orangeries and porches.

Carera do not use high pressure salesmen, it has had the same owner since it opened in 1989. Call them now for your **FREE** no obligation quotations. Our visit takes approximately 20-30 minutes

Visit our large beautiful showroom with all products on display for a warm welcome



Proud to have worked with

DIY SOS the big build

WINDOWS · DOORS · PORCHES · ORANGERIES · CONSERVATORIES

CARERA WINDOWS LTD The Recommended Company

24, Junction Rd, Audnam, Stourbridge DY8 4YJ

01384 442 490

www.carerawindows.co.uk

Yale FENSA Registered Company

Profits up 20pc for the owner of Diamond Bus

TIVIDALE-BASED bus and coach operator Rotala, which includes Diamond Bus, has reported rises in both profits and turnover for its latest financial year.

Adjusted pre-tax profit was up by 20 per cent to £3.22 million on turnover which grew five per cent to £57.9m for the year to the end of November.

The business bought three companies during the year to expand operations in the West Midlands, the North West and at Heathrow airport. They included Hansons (Wordsley) for £608,000.

Chairman John Gunn said the company made good progress in the year: "The two smaller acquisitions were aimed at enlarging our bus business, firstly in the West Midlands and secondly in Greater Manchester.

"The last and largest acquisition just before the year end, for our Heathrow depot, further increased our presence in this key market.

"Shortly after the year end we acquired another small bus business in the West Midlands area in order to extend our route network there. The seven acquisitions we have made since 2016 have very much enlarged the scale of the group's operations and considerably raised the group's prospects in a market which continues to undergo much change."

One of the Diamond buses pulls into Stourbridge bus station

Mr Gunn said Rotala expected to see further growth this year from contracts for local authority services which delivered 16 per cent of revenue in 2016-2017.

Revenue from commercial services grew three per cent to £33.7m. Mr Gunn said the introduction of bus alliances in the West Midlands offered the prospect of being able to increase market share.

"In the West Midlands we anticipate a gradual introduction of bus alliances covering a number of routes," he added.

Rotala has sought to increase its reach in the western and northern parts of the West Midlands conurbation by making infill acquisitions of two smaller bus businesses.

The Hansons depot in Stourbridge was sold at the end of January for £320,000. Its 50 staff and 30 vehicles have moved to Rotala's other depots.

In November last year it bought the Hotel Hoppa bus business from National Express together with the fleet of 32 buses for £2m.

Advertisement Feature

Fast And Reliable Repair Centre

After moving into Great Bridge just over 2 years ago, GB Phones goes from strength to strength.

Located in the heart of Great Bridge, GB Phones offer a fast and reliable walk in repair centre, with most repairs being done within the hour by our technicians, who have many years experience of repairing Mobile Phones, I-pads and Tablets.

Great Bridge Shop

Wide Range

GB Phones also offer a wide range of new and used mobile phones and can also unlock all makes and models, as well as selling mobile phones, GB Phones will also buy your mobile phone, but only with 2 forms of identification.

Large stock available

Inside the Great Bridge shop

GB Phones can also supply everything you need for your Mobile Phone including batteries, sim cards, house and car chargers, covers, cases and also tempered glass screens which will help to protect your phone.

So if you unfortunately have a cracked or smashed screen, don't despair, because GB Phones will repair.

FEDERATION OF MASTER BUILDERS
FMB
The sign of building quality

The Federation of Master Builders. Championing continuous improvement in building quality for

75 years

Mercer House, 780a Hagley Road West, Oldbury, West Midlands B68 0PJ

T: 0121 421 9362

www.fmb.org.uk | E: fmbcentral@fmb.org.uk

GB PHONES GREAT BRIDGE

- We Buy & Sell New & Used Mobile Phones
- Unlock All Makes & Models
- All Repair Work Undertaken
- Walk In Repair Centre

Walk In Repair Centre

Give Us A Call For Any Questions
Don't Despair We'll Repair
58 Great Bridge, Tipton DY4 7EW
Tel: 0121 557 8899

Wistanstow policeman Bill Williams, who held the first ever camp in the back garden of his police house in 1958

A nostalgic return to adventure camp in shadow of Long Mynd

ADVENTUROUS types who enjoyed the great outdoors as youngsters and are now in their 50s, 60s and 70s will be making a nostalgic return to an adventure camp.

They will once again enjoy tented life, hiking – and perhaps even a "whiffenpoof" hunt – as they celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Longmynd Adventure Camp, near Church Stretton in Shropshire.

Those who went to the camp as young lads are planning to get together again in the Shropshire Hills both to mark the diamond anniversary and also to remember the founder, the late Bill Williams.

"We are trying to get together some of the old boys, some of the leaders, some of the tent leaders and people who were involved, who were at the camp from the 1950s to the 1990s," said one of the organisers, 68-year-old Mike Powell, of Shrewsbury.

"This includes me, as I was there in the 1960s. I was a tent leader and lived at the time at Craven Arms. It's going to be at Minton where the camp is now, from August 9 to 12.

"We are going to camp there. Some will be in the hall. We are hoping to pitch tents and do a lot of activities, singing songs and having a bit of a camp fire, and things like that. We are thinking about doing the whiffenpoof hunt we did when we were kids."

The whiffenpoof hunt was one of the traditional activities for the youngsters at the camp. The elusive whiffenpoof was described as resembling a log with spikes along its back which looked like nails.

Report by Toby Neal

Following its tracks always ended in the vicinity of the Cardingmill Valley Cafe, where the youngsters were treated to lunch by a local lady doctor, Dr Gooch.

The Longmynd Adventure Camp – in its title, Long Mynd is spelt as one word – had its origins in 1958 when Bill Williams, a local policeman, held a camp in the back garden of his police house at Wistanstow, near Craven Arms. The first camp in the foothills of the Long Mynd was in 1959 at a field in Minton.

Aimed at boys aged 11 to 14, it was originally called The WVS (Women's Voluntary Services, as it was then) Boys Camp, and its aim was to provide a camping holiday for deprived boys from the West Midlands, mainly from the Wolverhampton and Birmingham areas. Later its catchment area broadened.

The camp gained charitable status in 1973. The Longmynd Adventure Camp continues as a charity to this day, its stated primary aim to provide respite breaks for disadvantaged children. For more information, log onto http://longmyndadventurecamp.org.uk/

Youngsters at the very first camp held in the shadow of the Long Mynd in 1959

Tented life in 1965, after the camp had been up and running for some years

Star Reader Travel
Hand picked holidays with you in mind

Your Chronicle in association with Just Go! Holidays

Portmeirion
& Little Trains of North Wales
Departing Monday 9 Jul
From Walsall & Wolverhampton

Price Includes...
- ✔ Return coach travel
- ✔ 4 nights DBB at the Westminster Hotel, Rhyl
- ✔ Entertainment on some nights
- ✔ Heritage journeys on the Welsh Highland Railway, Great Orme Tramway & Ffestiniog Railway
- ✔ Excursions to Caernarfon, Llandudno & Portmeirion (including entrance)

5 Days By Coach — now only £265

Liverpool
Cilla & the Beatles
Departing Monday 6 Aug
From Walsall & Wolverhampton

Price Includes...
- ✔ Return coach travel
- ✔ 4 nights DBB at the Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool (all meals buffet style)
- ✔ Guided city tour of Liverpool
- ✔ Ferry trip on the River Mersey
- ✔ Excursion to Southport

5 Days By Coach — now only £275

Coach package holidays are subject to Just Go! Holidays terms and conditions which are based on the Bonded Coach Holiday Group Trading Charter. Tours offered subject to availability. Errors and omissions excepted. Prices shown are per person, based on two people sharing a dbl/twin room. Single supplements apply.

For more information or to book, please call: 03332 341 875 Quote JGRT
or visit online at: justgoholidays.com/RT
033 numbers are free within inclusive minutes packages otherwise standard rates apply.

Fitted within 2 weeks for a service you can trust

C&T
Doors & Windows Ltd
Tel: 01902 842706 / 07759 536818
www.candtdoorsandwindows.co.uk
ALL AREAS COVERED
Email: enquiries@candtdoorsandwindows.co.uk

For any information do not hesitate to contact us

DOORS
COMPOSITE DOORS AVAILABLE

Unglazed/Glazed from £349.00 fully fitted. New Improved 10 point locking system fully reinforced. Many more designs available.

EDWARDIAN CONSERVATORY 3 MTR x 3 MTR From £4500
Bi-Fold Doors From £999
French Patio Doors From £649

VICTORIA CHIPPY

Express & Star CHIP SHOP OF THE YEAR Winner 2016

OPEN MON-SAT 11.45 AM-10.00 PM

Free bottle of pop with any order over £20

Card payment accepted

Telephone orders welcome

10 Owen Street, Tipton, West Midlands DY4 8EZ
0121 557 2351
THE CHIPPY WITH THE 5 STAR RATING

BROADCAST YOUR BUSINESS
WITH THE COMPLETE PRODUCTION OF A COMPELLING VIDEO

1. PRE-PRODUCTION PLANNING
Where we find out about you!
2. ON-LOCATION RECORDING
The important bit.
3. AUDIO PRODUCTION
Music or voice over?
4. POST PRODUCTION
Where the finishing touches happen.
5. VIDEO ADVERTISING
Want even more exposure?

CALL 01902 319730

Source: www.mnadigital.co.uk/video-advertising

MNA DIGITAL

Officers go on trail of the pink paint spillers

A TRAIL of pink paint led Sandwell Council officers to the door of fly-tippers in Smethwick.

The householders have been fined £400 for dumping paint pots and bags of rubbish at the top of an alleyway behind their home.

When officers from the council's fly-tipping crackdown team went to check for evidence of who had dumped the rubbish, they noticed a trail of pale pink splashes leading from the alleyway, through a back gate and onto the back lawn of a house.

The people who lived there initially denied dumping anything – but when officers looked inside their home, they could see the lounge had recently been painted the same colour.

They then admitted dumping the paint pots and rubbish bags.

Accepted

One of the council officers who attended the scene said: "We'd spotted the rubbish and went back to see if there was any evidence of who had dumped it.

"We walked down the alleyway and noticed there was a trail of pink paint leading from where the bags were through the alley, to a back gate and right up onto the back lawn of this house. Then we went into their back room which was also painted pink. At that point they accepted they had dumped the rubbish. I suppose you could say we caught them pink-handed."

Sandwell Council launched a major crackdown on fly-tipping last May and almost 60 people have since been hit with £400 fixed penalties for dumping rubbish. To report fly-tipping online go to www.sandwell.gov.uk/flytipping or call 0121 368 1177.

Making a splash – paint on the path

Pink drips lead to the fly-tippers' home

Honda showroom revamped

A MOTOR dealership has had its showroom transformed into a state-of-the-art, 'customer-centric' outlet.

Brindley Honda West Bromwich's new look showroom has had a complete interior and exterior refurbishment. The dealership at Millennium Park, New Swan Lane, is expecting a busy year, following the successful launch of the 10th-generation Honda Civic last year and The Honda Civic diesel and new Honda Jazz both set to arrive later this month.

The growing company has invested significantly in the showroom which offers an improved reception area.

Mark Hossack, site principal at Brindley Honda West Bromwich, said: "All of our improvements have been designed around our customers to make their visit with us more enjoyable."

ADVERTORIAL

Has Your Double Glazing Steamed Up?

Established for over a decade Cloudy2Clear windows have become a leading company for glass replacement. Issues with double glazing can often be gradual and may only be noticed during a clear sunny day or during the winter. A failed glass unit may no longer provide you with the protection you need or be energy efficient. Why not spend a few minutes checking your home to see if you have any failed double glazing? If you act now you can avoid these problems.

Now, you may think you need to replace the whole window including the frames and all the hardware, however Cloudy2Clear have come up with a simple and cost saving solution… Just replace the glass!!

If you see condensation in your windows just visit our website or give us a call on **0800 61 21 118**. We will send out our highly experienced engineers for a free no obligation quote. **A Cloudy2Clear quote takes on average no longer than 20 minutes**. Once the quote is completed, we will sit down with you and explain the problem and tell you how we can fix it. With years of experience Cloudy2Clear have a wealth of knowledge and are recognised as a Which Trusted Trader, **plus our work is backed by an industry leading 25 year guarantee**. Cloudy2Clear also replace faulty locks handles and hinges on all windows and doors.

Your friendly local Cloudy2Clear specialist is James Stanley and he services Walsall and surrounding areas.

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give James a call for a free quotation on **0800 61 21 118**.

"Cloudy2Clear GUARANTEE All Customers That An Average Quote Will Take No Longer Than 20 MINS!!!"

Cloudy2Clear Windows… Service With A Smile!

Cloudy2Clear Are A… Which? Trusted Trader

All Glazing Backed By Our 25 YEAR GUARANTEE

Priority Freephone 0800 61 21 118

www.cloudy2clear.com

Broken Or Damaged Windows? Faulty Locks, Handles, Hinges?

Sandwell Children's Trust

It won't just be your life that changes

Thursday 26 April at 6.30pm

Central Library, West Bromwich B70 8DZ

JOIN US!

0800 358 0899

www.sandwellchildrenstrust.org

or visit SandwellFostering

Sandwell Chronicle Thursday, April 19, 2018

Interior design on a salesroom shoestring

ANTIQUES AND COLLECTIBLES

with John Ridgway of Perry & Phillips

WE'RE always saying that it can cost a good deal less to furnish a home with vintage pieces than with shiney new contemporary ones – and it seems our sale-goers are in agreement!

One bidder at this month's auction bought a beautiful chair and sofa, both in excellent condition and of good quality, for just £170 and was delighted as she had a limited budget and had been rather depressed at the cost of similar new items.

It really isn't that difficult to comprehend, all you have to do is compare prices to see that 'shopping' in the saleroom can yield some real bargains.

And you don't have to slavishly follow any 'set patterns' in terms of interior design, mix and match styles and colours to create a unique and personal look.

There really are some amazing vintage pieces of furniture being sold for very reasonable prices just now.

Armchairs, sofas, tables, bookcases, wardrobes – you name it and you can usually buy it at auction for a good deal less than you would pay for something similar in a large retail outlet.

Of course, some vintage items will show signs of a little wear and tear but this shouldn't deter you and if you buy something in need of restoration then it won't be much of an issue – get some expert advice if you need it and use a professional upholsterer for soft furnishings.

If you are furnishing a new home - or revamping an existing one - it can be a lot of fun browsing a saleroom for 'unexpected' treasures like a beautiful old clock, a vintage lamp or a pretty Edwardian day bed.

You need to think outside the furniture box and be creative, set yourself a budget, make up a wish-list and head off to a saleroom viewing day!

Check for condition before you decide to bid - and size, remember modern homes tend to have relatively small doorways – and be pleasantly surprised at the bargains you acquire!

* The next Perry and Phillips sale of antiques and collectables will take place at the Mill Street saleroom, Low Town, Bridgnorth on Tuesday, June 5, from 10.30am.

Viewing is during the weekend and on the Monday prior to the sale and catalogues are available from the saleroom or online at www.perryandphillips.co.uk. Newcomers to the auction should arrive in plenty of time to register and be allocated a bidding number and bids may be made (by prior arrangement) over the phone or left with the auctioneer.

*** Perry and Phillips hold valuation days, for sale items only, every Wednesday from 10am until 4pm.**
*** Video previews of the sale are now available on our website, www.perryandphillips.co.uk.**

Regrets over trades as gold's popularity returns

Gold is now back in vogue

STYLE FOCUS

with Janet Timmis

DID you take your unworn gold jewellery to the high street gold shop a few years ago?

Silver coloured metals were the trend and the unpopular traditional yellow gold "worth it's weight" and we traded it in in our thousands.

Whatever we were saving for helped along by the price of this precious metal and hordes of retailers opened to help us sell it.

For many years now silver coloured metals have been a popular choice for jewellery, more wedding and engagement rings in silver, white gold, platinum, titanium and steel at the expense of the warm coloured metal our ancestors preferred.

Gold is available in varying colours by mixing other metals with 24 carat gold. White gold is mixed with palladium or silver, adding copper creates a soft pink but blue, purple and black can be created by adding patinas or oxides.

24 carat is pure gold with no other metals. Lower carat contains less gold – 18 carat gold contains 75 per cent pure gold and 25 per cent other metals, often copper or silver. For example, 9 carat yellow gold has 37.5 per cent pure gold, 42.5 per cent silver and 20 per cent copper.

Gold has emotional, cultural and financial value and is used in jewellery, technology and traded by banks and investors. It was the first metal known to us, it is easy to work with and neither corrodes nor tarnishes.

Ancient civilizations used it as decoration and it has always been associated with wealth and royalty.

It has been accepted as money all over the world, the first coins being produced as early as 700BC.

Did you know? It is rarer to find a one-ounce nugget of gold than a 5 carat diamond. One ounce of gold can be stretched to a length of 50 miles or hammered into a nine metre square sheet and at least half of all mined gold goes to produce jewellery.

Gold nanoparticles are used in home pregnancy test kits to ensure accurate results and every smartphone contains gold to help keep your data safely stored.

In the last couple of years rose gold has been the newest jewellery trend being used as a popular colour on everything from nail varnish to phone covers, I could see though the way preferences were changing and how we would soon see a re-emergence of traditional gold.

I have just watched the new Pandora advert on the television and the glossy advertising pages in the magazines are awash with the soft warm tones of traditional yellow gold.

I've already heard friends commenting on their regret of selling the family jewellery because it was no longer a popular style or colour and the money went towards the trendiest of scatter cushions for the newly decorated bedroom.

Hopefully we have learned from our mistakes!

Visit www.jflexclusive.com, www.jflgarmentsolutions.co.uk Follow: jfllifeandloves on tumblr

Older red wines can be decanted

Buying wine should be a happy experience

Buff or bluff? How to get the best from a bottle

Cork or screwtop – does it matter?

WE may be a nation of wine drinkers, but we don't always know how to get the best out of a bottle.

By Sam Wylie-Harris

Whether we're at home or away, the ritual of opening a bottle is as much about having a good time as it is about the wine.

But sometimes, there can be a nagging thought in the back of our minds. Is this wine ready to drink? Am I serving it in the right glass? Do I know where it's from?

So, to enhance your wine pleasure and answer any pressing questions from the grapevine, here are a few that crop up time and time again...

1. How can I buy a bottle of wine without feeling intimidated?

We've all felt the fear... walking into a wine shop and not quite knowing where to begin. For starters, buying wine should be a happy experience, so make sure you choose a good wine shop (not too stuffy, not too large and impersonal) where the staff are approachable, knowledgeable and hold regular wine tastings. Otherwise, you can get to grips with the wine world by buying online, or joining a wine club.

2. Screw cap or cork?

Firstly, there's nothing wrong with a screw cap. They've shed their shady past of being associated with cheaper wines and keep wine fresh and reliable every time. Winemakers, especially in New Zealand and Australia, favour them.

Corks are susceptible to cork taint. However, many winemakers believe they're essential for ageing, because full-bodied wines benefit from a little oxygen.

3. How do I taste wine like a pro?

Look, swirl, smell, sip. Sounds easy enough. Pour the wine, tilt the glass and note the colour and clarity of the wine. Swirl the glass to release the aromas and think about the fruits at the fore, which could be citrus or tropical in a white, or bright cherry and strawberry fruit in a red.

Take a sip, taste the wine and think about the texture and length. Did you like it? Did it leave you looking forward to the next sip (or glass)? Make a mental note and the more you taste, the more you'll learn.

4. Does vintage matter and which one should I buy?

Generally speaking, the current vintage for white wine represents grapes that were harvested one to three years ago, depending on the style of wine. For red wines, the current vintage is usually from one to four years ago. When it comes to fine wines such as Bordeaux, a good vintage will be reflected in the price and there may be several vintages (check the year to see if it's ready to drink) available at any one time.

5. How can I understand a wine label?

New World producers (from Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, South America, USA) don't shy away from putting their name and grape variety on the label, which indicates the style of the wine. So if you're a pinotphile (lover of pinot noir), you can easily hunt down a Chilean, Californian or Kiwi pinot. However, Old World wines (from Europe) go by region or village, which can be very confusing if you don't know your Sancerre (sauvignon blanc), from your Chablis (chardonnay).

6. Which glass should I choose?

Most wine critics prefer a larger glass, so a generous red wine vessel is best for whites and reds. For champagne or sparkling wine, a glass with a larger rim diameter will enable the aromas to be released, which doesn't happen with a traditional, narrow flute.

7. When should a wine be decanted?

Usually, a wine is decanted when it needs to be separated from the sediment, which is generally only present in older red wines – say 10 years plus.

PUBLIC NOTICE

MUST END SOON

LEVINES

MUST END SOON

Furniture, Bed, 3 Pc Suite Superstore

£300,000 TOTAL STOCK CLEARANCE

SAVE UP TO **60%**

ALL STOCK MUST BE SOLD

UNBEATABLE DEALS • ALL STOCK REDUCED TO SELL

Friday 20th April	Saturday 21st April	Sunday 22nd April
9am - 6pm	9am - 6pm	10.30am - 4.30pm

TOTAL CLEARANCE PRICE
3 ONLY
The Kelly Full Double Frame and Superb Mattress

SAVE 40% Was £299 — NOW ONLY £179 COMPLETE

TOTAL CLEARANCE PRICE
4 SETS ONLY
The Minnesota Luxury Recliner Sofas 3 Seater Recliner + 2 Seater Recliner Black on Brown

SAVE 30% Was £995 — NOW ONLY £689 THE PAIR

TOTAL CLEARANCE PRICE
6 ONLY
The Zen 3/4 Size Small Double Frame

SAVE 70% Was £149 — NOW ONLY £49 MATTRESS EXTRA

TOTAL CLEARANCE PRICE
2 SETS ONLY
The Henley Latest Design Glass Table + 4 Matching Chairs White on Black

SAVE 30% Was £499 — NOW ONLY £299

THE CORONA RANGE OF BEDROOM FURNITURE
WEEKEND SPECIAL DEAL
UNBEATABLE PRICES 3 DAYS ONLY
LOWEST PRICES

Triple 3 Door Wardrobe	£249
Large Dressing Table	£109
Double Door Wardrobe	£199
3 Drawer Large Chest	£99

THE MATTRESS COLLECTION
IMMEDIATE DELIVERY SAVE 50%

	3FT SINGLE SIZE	4FT SMALL DOUBLE SIZE	4FT 6IN FULL DOUBLE SIZE	5FT FULL KING SIZE
Budget	£35	£59	£69	£79
Deluxe	£69	£79	£89	£109
Orthopaedic	£79	£99	£109	£139
Memory Foam	£89	£119	£129	£159
Pocket Sprung	£139	£179	£179	£199

LOTS MORE AVAILABLE – ALL REDUCED

THE CORONA RANGE OF SOLID WOOD DINING FURNITURE WEEKEND SPECIAL
WEEKEND SPECIAL DEAL
UNBEATABLE PRICES 3 DAYS ONLY
LOWEST PRICES

Large Wide Sideboard	£155
Oblong Long TV Unit	£95
Nest of 3 Tables	£50
Coffee Table with Drawers	£59.50

TOTAL CLEARANCE PRICE
5 ONLY
The Pearl Luxury Full Double Size Orthopaedic Bed Base + Mattress

SAVE 25% Was £249 — NOW £149 HEADBOARD EXTRA

TOTAL CLEARANCE PRICE
4 ONLY
The Clio Memory Foam Superb Quality Complete Full Double Size Beds

SAVE 50% Was £449 — NOW £179

TOTAL CLEARANCE PRICE
3 ONLY
The Balmoral Extending Table Super Oak + 4 Matching Chairs CRAZY PRICE

SAVE 70% Was £599 — NOW £349

TOTAL CLEARANCE PRICE
The Borba 4 Door Wardrobe 218cm wide, 215cm long Super Storage Space Latest Colours Top Quality Wardrobe

SAVE 30% Was £499 — ONLY £259

TOTAL CLEARANCE PRICE
4 SETS ONLY
Bunk Beds Full Single Size Silver Bunks Beds CRAZY SALE PRICE

SAVE 50% Was £199 — NOW ONLY £119 MATTRESS EXTRA

TOTAL CLEARANCE PRICE
1 ONLY
The Salsa Sofas 3 Seater + 2 Seater Latest Design

SAVE 40% Was £799 — NOW ONLY £429 THE PAIR

TOTAL STOCK CLEARANCE
1 SET ONLY
The Roscrea Large Dark Wood Extending Table + 4 Matching Chairs

Was £999 — NOW ONLY £599 THE LOT

TOTAL STOCK CLEARANCE
1 ONLY
The Francesca 3 Seater Sofa + 2 Matching Reclienr Chairs

Was £1299 — NOW ONLY £699

583 BEARWOOD ROAD,
BEARWOOD B66 4BH
TEL: 0121-420-2991

LEVINES

LEVEL STREET,
BRIERLEY HILL
01384 79393

Big choice in quality roses to choose from

SENSUOUS roses confirm the presence of early summer.

The variation in fragrance and the brilliance of their blooms create a magical atmosphere in the garden.

Roses contribute scent, form and colour and can easily be incorporated into any garden scheme.

English shrub rose is a comparatively recent introduction and includes many which have rapidly established themselves as firm favourites and are happily, widely grown.

Old shrub roses Gallica, Damask, Alba, Centifolia and Moss are the roses of history, the forerunners of today's garden shrub roses. Richly scented, magnificent blooms with lax growth, giving the garden an air of maturity.

Modern Bush Roses: For sheer brilliance of bloom, for innovative colour and for massed display, the modern bush rose will satisfy all such demands and more besides. Included in this group are the Hybrid Teas, the most popular of all garden roses, multi-flowered Floribundas, and an extensive range of miniature and Patio roses, many ideal for small gardens or pots.

Miniature and Patio roses are suitable for today's smaller gardens and are reliably hardy.

Climbing and Rambler Roses: Cascading from mature trees, draping arches and pergolas, or clothing ancient walls, even covering an unsightly shed, Climbing and Rambling roses may be put to endless use. Combine them with a complementary clematis for an eye-catching display of colour and interest over the summer period. Choose from soft, pastel shades, vibrant reds, oranges, and yellows or cooling creams and whites.

My top roses are:

ENGLISH SHRUB ROSE

Rosa Jaques Cartier (Portland Shrub Rose) – A reliable shrub rose going back 150 years, named after a famous French sailor and explorer of the 16th century. Fully double, deep rose-pink flowers with a strong, sweet scent. It produces flowers throughout the summer and autumn and blooms stand up well to rain.

OLD SHRUB ROSE

Rosa gallica var. Officianalis (Red Rose of Lancaster or The Apothecary's Rose) – a healthy and robust small shrub rose that can be relied on to provide interest and colour. Large, semi-double, fuchsia and a pure Old Rose scent with hips in autumn.

MODERN BUSH ROSE

Rosa "Just Joey" **(pictured left)** is a repeat flowering, very fragrant Hybrid Tea rose. Ruffled blooms of a coppery orange are produced throughout the summer and autumn. A rose with good disease resistance.

PATIO ROSE

Rosa "Raspberry Royal" a hardy patio floribunda rose that produces masses of weather resistant, richred flowers. Compact and lightly fragrant, ideal for small spaces. Choose an open sunny position at the front of a border or in a patio container. .

RAMBLER

Rosa "Albertine" is a large and vigorous rambling rose, perfect for training over an arch or pergola or a large sunny expanse of wall. A reliable variety of fragrant, light salmon-pink flowers in June and July. The strongly scented flowers make good cut flowers.

CLIMBER

Rosa "Laura Ford", a compact climber bearing clusters of small, loosely double flowers, bright yellow at first, becoming lemon-yellow, edged pink from early summer through until late autumn. Repeat flowering, slightly fragrant and excellent disease resistance. The flowers are borne over the height of the plant and repeat flower well followed by small orange hips.

Rosa "Golden Showers" **(pictured top)** is a yellow, repeat-flowering climbing rose with large, sweetly fragrant, semi-double, golden-yellow blooms fading to lemon and eventually cream. Flowering through the summer and into autumn, Rosa "Golden Showers" is a compact climber, ideal for smaller spaces; grows in sun or light shade.

Love Plants is offering 10 per cent off all roses during April.

Tim Robinson is manager of Love Plants at Salop Leisure in Shrewsbury

Confusion over recycling rules 'needs sorting out'

Confusing recycling rules need binning, according to green energy expert Ron Fox

CONFUSION over recycling rules needs sorting out as up to 400,000 tonnes of green rubbish is sent wrongly to landfill every year, according to energy expert Ron Fox.

In a survey commissioned by the British Science Association 2,000 people were asked about the guidelines and no one got full marks.

"Householders need more information about what can be recycled and what can't as the regulations keep changing," said Mr Fox, of Noreus Ltd on the University of Keele Science and Innovation Park.

"In some parts of the country waste companies sort out the items, allowing it all to be thrown into a single bin. Perhaps that is a solution or that councils should sort the materials out at their depots."

The most common mistake made by 66 per cent of people was not putting kitchen foil and foil trays in the recycle bin. But it can as long as it is cleaned.

Also 58 per cent of those questioned didn't realise that empty deodorant, aerosols and hairspray containers could be reused.

There were problems with items which residents thought could be recycled but couldn't. These included hand soap pump dispensers with 44 per cent believing wrongly that the top can could be used again, 33 per cent thinking that kitchen roll is recyclable and 24 per cent making the same error with coffee cups which have a plastic lining.

Other mistakes were 35 per cent didn't empty and rinse shampoo and conditioner bottles and 29 per cent didn't clean food containers.

Meanwhile, the charity Wrap pointed out that under new rules items which cannot be recycled are black plastic bottles – because sorting equipment cannot detect the colour black – wine glasses, greeting cards with glitter on, nail varnish bottles, crisp packets, nappies and window glass.

But the guidelines said that telephone directories, envelopes with windows, egg boxes and takeaway trays could now be recycled. Also green items should not be put in black sacks as they are all sent automatically to landfill sites. Sometimes householders have been found trying to recycle the most unusual items, including a dead pet, a collection of glass eyes and a blow-up doll.

"The serious point is that this confusion may cause recycling levels to fall which won't help reduce our carbon footprint," said Mr Fox.

A worrying statistic is that a survey by Serco's Environmental Services business research partner, Future Thinking, found that three in 10 people didn't recycle as much as they could because of the confusing rules and this rose to 57 per cent in the 16 to 34 year range.

"Interestingly," added Mr Fox, "82 per cent of 55 to 74 year olds and 88 per cent of over 75s reuse all they can. The best area is Wales where 75 per cent say they recycle everything possible with the West Midlands in second place with 69 per cent."

Shedding light on dangers of the 'enemy within'

Report by Hannah Stephenson

WHEN we think of invasive plants, alarm bells might ring at the mention of Japanese knotweed or giant hogweed – but can the same be said about buddleia, bamboo or montbretia?

Yet these – and other – common plants will be coming under the spotlight at this year's RHS Chelsea Flower Show in a garden of invasive plants, created to highlight non-native species that "escape" from gardens up and down the UK and the damage they can do once let loose.

To raise awareness of the issue, experts from the Property Care Association's Invasive Weed Control Group are developing the "Enemy Within" garden at the show, which will run from May 22 to 26, to show 14 of the good, the bad and the ugly invasive non-native plants currently thriving in gardens across the country.

These include montbretia, false Virginia creeper, Japanese rose, three-cornered garlic, the garden lupin, buddleia and cotoneaster.

Professor Max Wade, chairman of the PCA's Invasive Weed Control Group, says: "We know from studies of today's invasive weeds that it can take decades to become a national problem after escaping from gardens.

"For instance, giant rhubarb was first seen outside of gardens in 1908 and it wasn't until about the turn of the century that it became invasive, while Japanese knotweed took from 1886 to about 1940 to start its ascendancy.

"Based on this, we should consider that not only is tomorrow's Japanese knotweed growing in gardens today, but we are busy planting the follow-on generation to perpetuate the process."

Steve Hodgson, chief executive of the PCA, says: "We don't have to allow invasive plants to become such a big problem if we act responsibly. Non-natives which find niches in habitats, tend to grow without competition.

"If we are responsible about how we manage what we've got, we should be able to avoid the problems we see with things like Himalayan balsam, giant hogweed and knotweed."

Other plants that have the same potential include:

BAMBOO

There's been a lot of bamboo planted over the years, thanks to its popularity in gardening makeover shows and horticultural fashion generally, says Hodgson. If they are left unchecked they can be just as damaging as anything else. "Watch it, manage it and if in doubt, remove it," he advises. "There are well-established professional organisations that can help if you can't do it yourself."

Buddleia – or the "butterfly bush" – can cause serious structural damage to buildings

Bamboo is popular but should not be left unchecked

Advice – Steve Hodgson of the PCA

BUDDLEIA

"We have a massive problem with the butterfly bush," he says. "It's a real nightmare. Anecdotally, it causes more structural damage to buildings than anything else. The fact is, if it is left close to buildings, the buddleia roots are so strong they will pull the masonry apart. It starts from a seed." Plant a buddleia near to your home at your peril. If you see any seedlings which have taken next to the house, pull them out.

MONTBRETIA

"Leave it alone it will spread like wildfire. In most domestic gardens it will out-compete the other plants in the flowerbed – and when you get it into a wild environment, it does exactly the same thing." You can dig the corms of montbretia up to keep it in check – but don't dispose of it on your compost heap because it's likely that wherever you spread the compost, the montbretia will follow. One solution is to burn the corms.

AQUATIC PLANTS

Pennywort and water fern are problematic, he says. Reports of the invasive plant floating pennywort in rivers and lakes have reached a record high, officials are warning. "They often arrive because somebody's cleaned out a fish tank. They were imported and used in aquariums and fish tanks and people clean them out and chuck them into the nearest pond, and before you know it, they are filling up rivers and ponds. They do a huge amount of environmental damage."

JAPANESE KNOTWEED

This is a massive problem, because if you disturb it and then leave fragments under new structures, it will grow back through an extension or a patio or into a conservatory. The RHS has just extended its advice to include the role of professional firms to eradicate knotweed, warning that DIY attempts at treatment or removal may not be successful.

For keen gardeners who wish to attempt to treat or dig out Japanese knotweed themselves, the RHS warns the plant is very deeply penetrating and success is not assured. Also, it is classed as "controlled waste" and therefore requires careful disposal at licensed landfill sites.

Geordie musical which has a Sting in its tale

REVIEW

By Diane Davies

The Last Ship
New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

HOW intimidating must it be for an actor or actress to have to perform in front of the show's creator – particularly if he happens to be international superstar and music legend Sting.

But how proud must the singer be when an auditorium of people leap to their feet for a richly-deserved standing ovation as the curtain falls on his creation.

Judging by the smile on his face as he joined the cast on stage at the New Alexandra Theatre last night, Sting was bursting with pride as well he might be.

The Last Ship is an incredibly powerful show that stirs the soul, lighting a fire in your belly while tugging at your heart strings.

Sting has described The Last Ship as very personal and repayment of 'an emotional debt' to the home town he abandoned at the age of 18 but he now credits as helping form his ambition and making him what he is today.

The musical is set in the dying years of the shipping industry in a Tyneside town and sees the return of sailor Gideon Fletcher who fled the town as a young man refusing to sacrifice himself to the working life already mapped out for him.

Gideon, played by Richard Fleeshman, returns in the hope of rekindling romance with childhood sweetheart Meg, the girl he left behind not knowing that she was expecting.

He returns in troubled times as the shipyard workers, led by Jackie White, battle for their livelihoods as management and a deliberately Thatcher-esque Government minister attempt to rip the heart and industry out of their community.

Working class hero Jackie is played by Joe McGann and his fiercely loyal wife Peggy by Charlie Hardwick, best known as Val Pollard in Emmerdale.

Sting gets in selfies mode at the theatre

The stunning backdrop for the performance, which includes upbeat, rousing anthemic tunes

Charlie Hardwick and Joe McGann star in Sting's musical, The Last Ship. Pictures: Pamela Raith

Together the characters are a formidable force but their touching devotion provides some particularly moving moments in the show.

Fleeshman is an amiable Gideon and has a strong voice although seems to fall into the trap of trying to imitate Sting's smooth, husky style. Frances McNamee portrays a strong, independent and feisty Meg with an equally impressive singing voice. Clever use of film projection adds impressive depth and atmosphere to the set with the shipbuilders cranes seemingly towering above and the welders sparks lighting up the room. Slick staging and innovative screening creates versatility and seamless scene changes.

Very worthy of the standing ovation it received. Runs at the theatre until Saturday.

KITCHENS AND BATHROOMS

HURRY! APRIL INSTALLATIONS STILL AVAILABLE

5 PIECE SET VANITY UNIT, SINK, TOILET & SOFT CLOSE SEAT, TOILET UNIT
£199.00

FULL BATHROOM SUITE BASIN, BATH, TOILET & SOFT CLOSE SEAT
£199.00

FREE TILES ON ALL FULLY INSTALLED KITCHENS & BATHROOMS*

REPLACEMENT KITCHEN DOORS FROM £10.00*

LESS ABLED BATH TO SHOWER CONVERSIONS

LARGE SELECTION OF COMFORT HEIGHT WC'S

interia KITCHENS & BATHROOMS

POTTERS LANE, WEDNESBURY, REAR OF MECCA BINGO, WS10 7LH

Call now for your FREE SURVEY
0121 505 1132

www.interiadesigns.co.uk

CT Minibus

Supporting Local Communities

CT Minibus provides low-cost mini-bus travel for community groups and other not-for-profit organisations

Do you need to use a minibus and can't afford the rates charged by hire companies?

- ☐ Paid Drivers Available
- ☐ MIDAS Training For Your Drivers
- ☐ Up to 16 Passengers
- ☐ Wheelchairs Assessible Vehicles
- ☐ Competitive Rates
- ☐ Special Weekend, Evening and School Holiday Rates

CALL US ON 0845 209 0191
www.communitytransport.org

LIGHTWOODS HOUSE
Spring Wedding Fair

Sunday 22nd April
11am - 3pm
FREE Entry

High quality exhibitors here to help you plan your special day!

Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
LIGHTWOODS HOUSE
LOTTERY FUNDED

All ale to memory of Duncan

DRINKERS will be able to raise a glass to Black Country football legend Duncan Edwards later this year after Sadler's Brewery announced it is creating a special tribute ale.

It will be launched at the 60th anniversary dinner on October 11, which the firm is also sponsoring.

But people will be able to sample it for the first time at a special Duncan Edwards night on May 1 at the Brewhouse in Lye. At that free admission event the special guest will be Alex Stepney.

He will be talking about Duncan and recalling his own night at Wembley 50 years ago – in 1968 – when he was a member of the Manchester United team who won the European Cup for the first time. October's dinner is at the Copthorne Hotel, Brierley Hill.

For details more information about the tribute dinner see duncanedwardstribute.com

Care home green light

A FORMER restaurant will be turned into a care home after the proposal was given the go-ahead.

The facility will open at the former Valentino restaurant in Newbury Lane, Oldbury. The plan has been approved by Sandwell Council.

FOCUS ON OLDBURY

Most journeys problem-free despite roadworks on M5

Report by Richard Guttridge

TWO thirds of vehicle journeys made on the M5 through Oldbury, are completed on time, despite a major roadworks scheme.

Some 66.6 per cent of motorists arrive without delay between junctions 1 and 2, a notorious section where journey times have been hampered in recent months.

This compares to just half of successful journeys, 51.5 per cent, travelling between junctions 10 and 10A on the M6, which, according to the findings of a new study, is the most clogged up route in the region. The results may come as no surprise for regular motorway commuters who have to put up with delays on a daily basis.

Queues

Journey times also suffer between junctions 10 and 9 at Walsall – with 57.6 per cent completed on time, according to car insurance firm Go Compare.

Another traffic hotspot is on the M54, between junctions 4 and 5 at Telford, where 61 per cent of journeys are completed on time due to drivers being stuck in big queues. It comes after it was revealed Birmingham's roads are the fourth worst in the country in terms of congestion. It ranks behind just London, Manchester and Aberdeen for delays.

Birmingham also has the worst two roads in the country – the A34 Northbound between Robin Hood Lane and A4540, and the A34 Southbound between the A4540 and Shaftmoor Lane.

On average drivers experience 43 hours of delays a year along these stretches of roads.

Smoke fills the air in Links Crescent, Oldbury. Picture: Oldbury Fire

Car bursts into flames 24 hours after MoT pass

DRAMATIC images by fire crews captured the moment car fire was extinguished after it burst into flames in a Black Country street. The fire took hold of the vehicle in Links Crescent, Oldbury, on Thursday night.

Firefighters used one hose reel jet to tackle the blaze while wearing breathing apparatus.

Fire crews on the scene said the car had passed its MoT just 24 hours previously. One crew from Oldbury was sent to the scene.

Awakening

Oldbury Fire tweeted: "A rude awakening for the owner of this car in #Brandhall last night, just 24 hours after it passed its #MOT. No foul play suspected." Photographs taken from the scene showed flames raging from the vehicles, while firefighters tackled the flames as smoke poured from the car.

A spokesman for West Midlands Fire Service said: "We got a call at 11.28pm. The incident involved one car on fire on a footpath. It is not believed to be suspicious."

Toys R Us town store will close next week

TOYS R US will shut its final stores in the next fortnight, with the Oldbury outlet closing on Monday.

It will mean more than 2,000 job losses, the retailer's administrators have confirmed.

The toy chain collapsed in February and insolvency specialist Moorfields has been selling off the retailer's stock at knockdown prices. However, Moorfields said on Thursday that all Toys R US's remaining 75 stores would close by April 24, with 2,054 employees set to be made redundant.

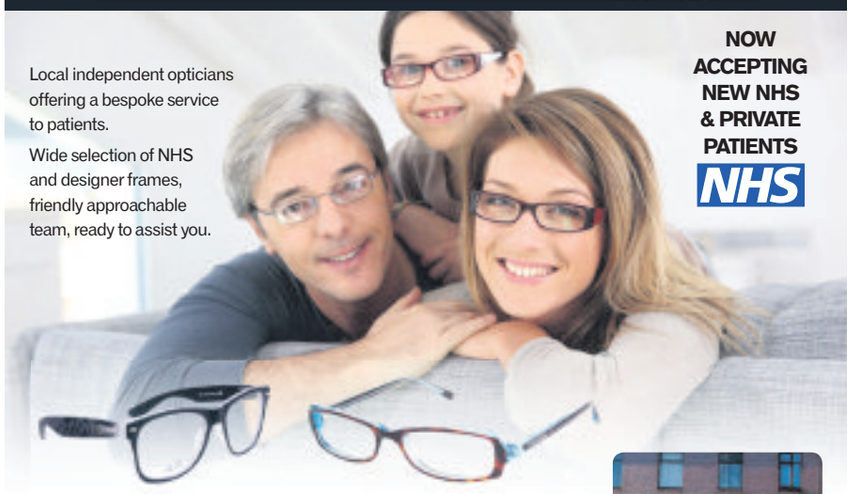
Simon Thomas, joint administrator at Moorfields, said: "We are grateful for the hard work of everybody at Toys R Us during this extremely difficult and challenging time.

"We are working closely with the 2,000 employees to ensure they receive the support they need for redundancy and other compensatory payments."

Toys R US appointed Moorfields to handle the administration when the company was unable to pay a £15m tax bill.

After failing to find a buyer for the business, Moorfields said in March that it would be necessary to close all of Toys R Us's 106 stores, and immediately made 67 staff at the chain's Maidenhead head office redundant.

EyeCare Opticians
designer eyewear & optometry



Local independent opticians offering a bespoke service to patients.
Wide selection of NHS and designer frames, friendly approachable team, ready to assist you.
NOW ACCEPTING NEW NHS & PRIVATE PATIENTS
NHS

We are now offering Diabetic Screening at our Coventry Road branch

Emergency eye appointments available in Bearwood & Oldbury

GUESS Ray-Ban MICHAEL KORS TED BAKER TOM FORD EYEWEAR SWAROVSKI MONT BLANC DIESEL

We very much look forward to welcoming and seeing you very soon

Eyecare Optometrists
503a Coventry Road,
West Midlands
B10 0LL
0121 773 2129

Eyecare Optometrists & Head Office
The Bank Buildings,
Langley High Street, Oldbury,
West Midlands B69 4SN
0121 552 4698

Eyecare Optometrists
488 Bearwood Road,
Smethwick
B66 4HB
0121 420 1805

The Codfather
Fish and Chips
Established 15 years

• Kebabs • Pies • Country Fried Chicken

Daily Specials Available

Children's Meals
All in a box with a toy and small drink

Don't miss out on your
Battered Chips Sundays Only
6pm-10pm

0121 - 544 - 2220
79 Brades Road, Oldbury B69 2EB

Sandwell Stone & Fencing Supplies

"WE DON'T JUST SUPPLY WE FIT TOO"
CALL NOW TO BOOK
You won't find better quality in Sandwell ... Guaranteed!
We do fencing, slabbing, Patios, Ornaments, Decking & Timber
Top Soil and Compost
We also supply and fit

Call 0121 544 7883
40-45 Park Lane, Oldbury B69 4LP
Visit us online
www.sandwellstone&fencing.com

JOB DONE HOUSEHOLD

- General DIY and household products
- Dry cleaning service
- Pet supplies
- Rug doctor hire (24 hr rental from £22.99)
- Key cutting service (Latch keys only)
- All your gardening needs including Compost etc
- Wide variety of Bedding Plants now in stock Available single or in trays

payzone
Swift cards & top up available

149 Castle Rd West, Oldbury, B68 0EL
0121 423 4118

For all your post office requirements visit Roger, Anne & the Girls at Dog Kennel Lane and Bristnall Fields Post Offices

POST OFFICE

277 Londonderry Road,
Oldbury B68 9NE
Tel:0121 552 1219
257 Pound Road
Oldbury B68 8NQ
Tel:0121 552 3015
postoffice.co.uk

WIN £25

TO SPEND WITH ONE OF THE ADVERTISERS ON THIS PAGE

Simply find the 12 advertisers names in the wordsearch panel.

T	X	T	E	I	D	E	L	G	N	I	D	W	A	L	K
L	O	V	E	C	I	S	C	O	C	H	R	I	S	I	S
M	N	A	O	N	E	T	E	A	R	S	P	S	V	T	I
R	U	N	A	R	O	U	N	D	S	T	U	H	X	A	C
X	P	N	L	N	I	G	H	A	R	A	S	I	G	T	K
T	R	E	T	K	A	V	I	T	R	A	S	N	M	T	L
E	I	T	M	W	O	L	V	E	S	T	I	G	L	O	E
L	N	I	C	K	S	C	O	P	E	D	N	W	R	O	H
T	C	F	K	T	W	D	A	O	I	U	E	E	T	S	C
U	E	R	G	N	H	M	N	R	C	L	I	L	E	B	T
O	S	E	P	U	I	N	L	I	Z	E	L	L	E	Y	A
T	S	P	H	O	T	L	S	O	L	V	M	K	F	T	K
E	D	U	O	H	E	T	K	U	Z	B	R	A	T	O	R
P	O	S	V	W	C	Y	T	P	L	B	1	H	E	M	E
R	N	H	D	P	A	F	E	B	B	T	E	O	E	O	E
A	N	N	Y	T	T	L	U	A	N	E	R	U	N	P	M
C	A	X	U	L	E	V	A	R	E	H	T	E	V	A	D
S	T	A	R	C	L	U	T	C	H	E	S	Y	T	I	C

WISHING WELL
SANDWELL RIDING
STAR CLUTCHES
WHITE CAT
KAVITRASAN
TATTOOS BY TOMO
CARPET OUTLET
NO1BLINDS
AMECO
SUPERFIT
RENAULT
NEET FEET

Send your completed panel to
Neil Lavery
Sandwell Chronicle Competition
Black Country House,
Rounds Green Road, Oldbury,
West Midlands B69 4DG,

Closing date: 27th April 2018.

Mr/Mrs/Miss ..... First Name ..... Surname .....
Address .....
..... Postcode .....
Tel No. ..... Emai .....
I have read the rules and agree to abide by them. Signature .....
I would like to spend my money with .....

RULES: Entrants must be 18 or over. Closing date for entries is 27/4/2018 . The winner will be notified by post. The first correct entry opened after the closing date will receive the prize. There is no cash alternative to the prize. The prize will be issued in cheque form made payable to the advertiser as chosen by the winner. Once issued the cheque cannot be altered and must be cashed within two months of receipt. Employees or their immediate relatives of the MNA group of companies may NOT enter. The Editor's decision is final. The winner must be prepared to take part in any publicity.

Supafit Motorists Centre

Laser Wheel Alignment from £20

Winter Servicing from £49.95

CAMBELTS, CLUTCHES, TYRES, EXHAUSTS, BRAKES, MOT REPAIRS

Front Brake Pads fitted from £39.95
Exhausts fitted from £35.95
Clutches fitted from £120
Timing Belts fitted from £110
Diagnostics from £20
Tracking from £20
Prices all subject to VAT

SPECIAL OFFER 10% OFF WITH THIS VOUCHER

Unit 1 Bridge Street Industrial Estate, Bridge Street, Wednesbury WS10 0AW
Call Steve now on 0121 502 2870
Member of The Good Garage Scheme
www.supafitmotoristcentre.co.uk

Want to learn something new?

- Holiday Activities
- School Groups
- Adult/Children Group Bookings
- Stabled & Grass Livery
- DIY Livery and much more

Sandwell Valley Riding Stables have 35 years experience with qualified staff and are members of the Pony Club and ABRS

Sandwell Valley Riding Centre
Wigmore Lane, West Bromwich
B70 3SU
0121 588 2103 / 07900 188079
www.sandwellridingcentre.co.uk

SALE SALE KAVITRAS

Special offers on ladies suits, sarees, anarkali suits, lehengas and much much more

We are wholesalers and retailers direct from India and a well known brand in the Midlands.
• Deals in Asian ladies suits
• Sarees • Kidswear • Menswear
...and Much Much More!

Kavitras
113 High Street, West Bromwich
Birmingham B70 6NY
0121 553 6629
Monday - Saturday 10hamwepm
Sunday Closed

Foot Care In The Comfort Of Your Own Home

Professional treatment by a qualified practitioner

- Toenail Cutting, Including Ingrown & Thickened
- Relief from painful Corns, Callus, Cracked Heels,
- Verrucas
- Treatment and footcare advice for Diabetic clients
- Reflexology also available

Neet Feet
Jayne Osbourn SAC
Dip FHPT/FHPP
07971 765624

NO.1 BLINDS

VERTICAL, ROLLER, VENETIAN, ROMAN BLINDS MADE TO MEASURE

VISIT OUR SHOWROOM

148 Walsall Road, Stone Cross B71 3HP
Tel: 0121 588 2988 Open Mon-Sat 9-5
VISA No1 Blinds www.no1blinds.co.uk MasterCard

RENAULT SPECIALISTS

Mechanical Repairs
Electrical Repairs
Pre M.O.T.
General Servicing
Cambelts
Diagnostics
All makes and models

0121 557 7675
07967 356 710
WE ARE NOW BREAKING CLIO 197

Why Pay Dealer Prices When We Offer the Same Service For Alot Less

Unit 1 Kingfisher Ind/Est
Charles Street, West Bromwich B70 0AT

TATTOOING BY TOMO

www.tattoosbytomo.com
107 Three Shires Oak Road, Bearwood, Smethwick, West Midlands B67 5BT
Tel: 0121 429 1566
Mobile: 07974 203039

The Carpet Outlet

CARPET OUTLET

161 Great Bridge Street
West Bromwich
B70 0DJ
Tel: 0121 532 4500
www.thecarpetoutlet.co.uk
Email: info@thecarpetoutlet.co.uk

STAR CLUTCHES LTD & REPAIR CENTRE

CLUTCHES FROM £100!!
LIFETIME GUARANTEE

- MECHANICAL REPAIRS
- GEARBOXES
- MOT
- BRAKES
- CLUTCHES
- WELDING
- GENERAL SERVICING
- DIAGNOSTICS

163 Great Bridge Street B70 0DJ
0121 572 1253

SUPPLIERS TO THE TRADE AND PUBLIC

Complete Electrical Wholesale Supplier
LED BULBS, CABLES AND CONSUMER UNITS FOR TRADE

AMECO Electrical Services LTD

UNIT B, NEW STREET, SMETHWICK,
WEST MIDLANDS B66 2AJ (next door to Copes Potatoes)
Tel/Fax: 0121 555 8500 Mob: 07976 285 398
E: amecoelectrical@gmail.com

Wishing Well MOBILITY

www.wishingwellmobility.co.uk
Call 0121 448 7730 or 07581 335352

WE ARE OFFERING UPTO 50% OFF HIGH STREET PRICES

- Mobility Scooters
- Wheelchairs
- Walking Aids
- Daily Living Aids
- Stair Lifts
- Sales, Repairs & Rental

NEW STORE NOW OPEN
Unit 77, Kings Square West Bromwich. B70 7NW
Free Parking WITH ORDERS OVER £10 on Farley Centre car park

White Cat Dry Cleaners

- Dry Cleaning
- Laundry
- Alteration
- Suede & Leather
- Wedding Dress – Prom
- Carpets
- Ironing Service

Visit online for prices
Free Delivery within 4 Miles Min order £20
0121 588 8222
www.whitecatdrycleaners.co.uk
310 Beacon View Road West Brom B71 3NX
Mon – Fri 9-6 Sat 9-5

SHOP with Express & Star

Order from the comfort of your own home
0871 911 7011
www.expressandstarshop.co.uk

Garden grow greenhouse

From only £219.99 plus £14.95 P&P*

SAVE UP TO £220

Ideal to get your growing underway, this greenhouse features double-layered shatterproof polycarbonate glazing to protect your plants, a heavy-duty galvanised zinc steel base for extra stability, integral guttering to collect rainwater for use at your convenience, a sliding door and large roof vent.

Available with either a galvanised bare aluminium silver frame or a corrosion-resistant coated green frame and in two sizes to suit your needs: the 6 x 4 version measures W: 6' 2" (1.89m) x D: 4' 3" (1.31m) x H: 6' 6" (2.01m); the 6 x 6 version measures W: 6' 2" (1.89m) x D: 6' 2" (1.89m) x H: 6' 6" (2.01m). All fixtures, fittings and instructions are included.

D9399 Green 6.2 x 4.3ft
£229.99 Was £449.99
G0509 Silver 6.2 x 4.3ft
£219.99 Was £399.99
G0467 Green 6.2 x 6.2ft
£279.99 Was £469.99
G0510 Silver 6.2 x 6.2ft
£269.99 Was £449.99

Wall-mounted metal rooster garden clock

SAVE £20 WAS £39.99

Only £19.99 plus £3.95 P&P

This elegant garden wall clock features a rooster perched on top and an attractive spiral-patterned bracket. It has a Roman numeral face with black time hands. Simply mount to your preferred wall or fence using the sturdy built-in mount (screws not supplied), and keep track of time while you are enjoying long lazy days in the garden. Constructed from powder-coated steel for durability, this clock makes a handy addition to any garden or conservatory. Requires one AA battery (not included). Measures diameter 60.3 x D4cm.

G2625 Metal rooster garden clock

75-litre garden cart

Only £69.99 plus £6.95 P&P*

SAVE £30 WAS £99.99

Transport tools, compost, logs, building materials or plants around your garden with ease. The tray is constructed from strong polypropylene and the durable chassis is powder-coated steel to create a hardwearing garden essential. Featuring puncture proof pneumatic wheels, the four-wheel design helps to spread the weight evenly across the cart, for maximum efficiency.

This sturdy cart can transport loads up to 250kg, and has a 75-litre capacity. The handle has a rubberised grip for added comfort. Requires some self-assembly.
Measures: tray L93 x W50 x H21cm, cart L98 x W50 x H96.5cm.
Weighs: 13.4kg.

G2683 75-litre garden cart

Garden Gear

Seville three-piece rattan set

SAVE £220 WAS £349.99

Only £129.99 plus £19.95 P&P*

Perfect for placing on your patio, lawn or decking so that you can enjoy the best of the summer in complete comfort, this fantastic garden furniture set includes two stylish chairs and a matching coffee table with a glass top. The brown and black sets come with cream cushions and the grey set comes with contrasting pale grey cushions, which can be removed and stored easily when not in use. Also available are spare cushion covers for when the originals are being cleaned. Made from UV light resistant, weatherproof, hand-woven rattan-effect PVC for added durability. Chairs measure W58 x D60 x H85.5cm. Table measures W40 x L40 x H41cm. Supplied as a flat-pack, self-assembly required. Maximum weight limit: 100kg. Also available is a garden furniture cover to ensure the protection of your rattan furniture, which is advised to be used in adverse and winter weather when the furniture is not in use.

G0530 Brown with cream cushions
G0531 Grey with pale grey cushions
G0532 Black with cream cushions
G0533 Spare cream cushion covers **£14.99**
G0534 Spare pale grey cushion covers **£14.99**
D9630 Furniture cover **£19.99**

Order Hotline 0871 911 7011*

8am-8pm, 7 days a week. *Calls cost 13p per minute plus your phone company's access charge.

Quote 82856

Order online at expressandstarshop.co.uk

Our 'was' pricing refers to the original selling prices offered on our website www.cjoffers.co.uk and in our retail store between 8th January - 8th April 2018. Allow 7 working days for delivery. If not happy for any reason we will accept return of faulty/unused goods in sealed original packaging for full refund or replacement within 30 days.
These goods are sold and supplied by BVG-Group Ltd. with whom you contract when you accept this offer. A SIGNATURE IS REQUIRED ON DELIVERY. *Please note that due to the weight of this product, delivery will take between 5 and 7 days. Due to courier limitations we are unable to deliver this product outside mainland UK, to Scottish Highlands, Isles or BFPO addresses.

RETURN TO: EXPRESS & STAR (82856), PO BOX 87, BRECON, LD3 3BE

Title (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms) _____ Initial _____ Surname _____

Address _____ Postcode _____

Email _____ Tel. (for queries only) _____

I enclose my cheque/PO made payable to BVG-GROUP LTD for £_____ Or please debit my card £_____ ☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa ☐ Maestro Issue No _____

My card number is:

Start date: __/__ Expiry date: __/__ Security Number: ___

"Midland News Association Ltd and other MNA companies or selected third parties may contact you with details of goods and services you may be interested in. By placing this order you give consent to Midland News Association Limited or selected third parties doing so, unless you have indicated your objection by ticking this box ☐ if you do not want to hear from selected third parties and ticking this box ☐ if you do not want to hear from Midland News Association Ltd."

PLEASE SEND ME	CODE(S)	QTY	PRICE	TOTAL
			POSTAGE	
			TOTAL	

Please add p&p charge. Highest single charge is applicable per order.

The Ticket

@TheTicket_Star

FROM MOD LIFE TO DOUBLE LIFE INSIDE

THEATRE + MUSIC + TV LISTINGS + PUZZLES

ADVERTISEMENT

THE BRITISH QUEEN SCOOPS LOCAL ADS PUB OF THE YEAR AWARD

Recently the Local Ads ran the Pub Of The Year Competition. The voting process was down to the readers where they had to vote for their favourite pub.

After many entries the winner this year was the British Queen which is owned by Mr Sidhu who has been there for over 12yrs.

Mr Sidhu said 'We are very proud of this award and we try to provide our customers old and new with a nice environment as we have recently added on our function room to the pub and we had the opening of our beer garden this summer which was opened by the Sandwell Major. We strive to do our best and we offer good food which attracts customers from nearby and afar'.

The British Queen also showcases all the main sporting events from Football, Cricket to Boxing and they have multi screens where you will not miss a second of the action. If doing is rather than watching you will be able to enjoy a game of pool at the venue whilst you are enjoying a nice cold beer!

Mr Sidhu was presented with the Pub Of The Year award last Friday from the Local Ads entertainment executive Daniel Eccles.

The British Queen is located on the Birmingham Road, Oldbury, B69 4EW - So get yourselves down to the Local Ads Pub Of The Year and you won't be disappointed.

LOCAL ADS PUB OF THE YEAR !

The British Queen

Sports Bar & Restaurant

• Beer Garden • Smoking Area • Children's Play Area

Opening Hours - Monday - Thursday 4pm - 11pm
Friday - Sunday 12pm - Late

Curries / Mixed Grills / Vegetarian Friendly

sky SPORTS
BT Sport

Function Room Available to seat 40 people

Follow us on Facebook @BritishQueenKitchen
www.britishqueensportsbar.co.uk
133 Birmingham Road, Oldbury. B69 4EW
Telephone: 07743 933112 / 0121 544 7792

THE DOVECOTE
PUB & CARVERY
HILL TOP • WEST BROMWICH • B70 0SD
0121 556 0008
7 DAY
CARVERY
£4.49 Monday - Saturday
• £6.79 Sunday
Food served : Mon-Sat 12:00-20:30
Sundays 12:00-17:30
FUNCTION ROOM FOR...
WEDDING RECEPTIONS, BIRTHDAY PARTIES, ANNIVERSARIES AND FUNERALS

OldburyREP
5th-12th May
'PLAYHOUSE CREATURES'
by April De Angelis
A fascinating glimpse into the lives of the first actresses to appear on the English stage (Including the famous Nell Gwynn) during the reign of Charles 11. A moving and often comic account of a true story. A modern classic revealing the determination of spirit of these remarkable women.
TICKET PRICES MON-TUES £8.00
WED-SAT £10.00 (£9.00 CONCESSIONS)
FILMS AT OLDBURY REP'S
'SCREEN ON THE GREEN'
APRIL 27TH
GOODBYE CHRISTOPHER ROBIN
MAY 18TH
ACTORS DON'T DIE IN LIVERPOOL
JUNE 8TH
THE GREATEST SHOWMAN
ALL TICKETS ARE STILL JUST £4.00 AND THE PERFORMANCE STARTS AT 7.30PM
FREE adjacent car park (CCTV) Lounge, Bar, Facilities for the disabled
Now booking! Box Office 0121 552 2761
Box Office open Monday evening from 7.30pm, Friday evening prior to main house production and the night of the production at 7.00pm
Spring Walk, Langley B69 4SP
Online bookings now available at our website:
www.oldburyrep.org

Phil's got nowhere to Hyde in new role

A twisted, nerve-jangling tale of horror will play out at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre when Phil Daniels stars in the gothic thriller Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde.

The age-old tale by Robert Louis Stevenson focuses on one of the kind and gifted Dr Jekyll's most audacious experiments, in which he tries to separate good from evil.

Inadvertently, Jekyll unleashes an alternative personality of pure evil . . . the mysterious Mr Hyde. And as the sinister figure starts causing terror and havoc in foggy London, Jekyll must race to find a cure for his monstrous alter-ego before it takes over for good.

The new production will feature at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre from May 1-5 and stars Phil Daniels, whose extensive and varied credits include Jimmy Cooper in Quadrophenia, Richards in Scum and Kevin Wicks in EastEnders.

Phil has worked with the RSC and NT and appeared on stage in productions as diverse as Les Miserables and This House.

We caught up with the star to find out what made him take on the role of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde.

How would you describe this version on the classic story?

"It's set in Victorian London so it's traditional in that respect and it's quite close in many respects to the book as well, but it delves into Dr Jekyll's personal life a bit more. There are more female characters in it, like his sister, and it explores how his father – who started the experiment which Dr Jekyll continues – was never very nice to him in his lifetime."

What's your take on the dual characters of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde?

"When I first spoke to Jenny King [the show's producer and creator of the Touring Consortium Theatre Company] about Jekyll and Hyde I was interested in the way sometimes when people have a drink they become different people. You know, they can be as good as gold one day but as soon as they've had a drink they become snarling animals. I was interested in that and approaching the characters from a point of view that, even though there is a liquid that Jekyll does take that turns him into this monster or which exposes the darker side of his personality, that darker side is in him already. He just releases it."

What are the challenges for you as an actor?

"It's about making it as real as possible – that there are two aspects of his personality and not just a crazed animal that's come out of nowhere. It's about finding out why Dr Jekyll is also Edward Hyde. What I don't want to do is make Hyde just evil, I want the audience to make their own mind up about who's the worst out of the two of them or who's the best, which facets of each character they like or appreciate and which facets they don't. That's the challenge – to make them both credible people. One might be a villain and one might commit a murder but it's because of the other one's personality that he does it."

Why do you feel theatre audiences love a good stage thriller?

"If there's a story that captures your imagination and has a beginning, a middle and an end, where something might happen or might not happen, it's quite thrilling. The Jekyll and Hyde story is just one of those stories that's always caught people's imaginations. I don't know how many pages the book is; I think it's only about 60 pages long, it's very slim. It's a tiny book that has lead to an industry of people making films, musicals, plays, other books, writing about it and analysing it. It's very popular and understandably so."

What twists does David Edgar's play spin on the well-known story?

"He gets at the heart of the story. He tries to give a reason for Jekyll and Hyde's breakdown, where Jekyll's father gives him no credit but he gives the daughter credit instead. There's a secret in the past between the sister and the brother that's quite violent so it's not just Hyde who's the violent one, there's something violent in Jekyll as well. That's what's interesting about Edgar's script; he gets deep into that. Plus with characters like Lanyon and Utterson there's a debate going on within the play about Victorian England, how the poor are being treated and whether it's because of society that people do bad things or because of the binary system of our personalities."

Double trouble – Phil Daniels in Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde

Have you done any research into the Victorian era? If so, what have you been most interested to learn?

"It's interesting that medicine was at a stage where they started to think anything was possible. Great leaps forward were happening and to be involved in that as a doctor would have been something someone like Dr Jekyll would have relished. I think part of his motivation for continuing these experiments and to write papers about them is to gain notoriety in medical circles. Maybe he's just an ordinary doctor who is trying to push his way into being famous."

You've had such a long and varied career. Which roles are you most recognised for?

"Mainly it's because of Quadrophenia, which has become a cult film over the years. I get a little bit of EastEnders but not so much. [Laughs] It depends on which supermarket you go to; it happens more in Lidl than Marks and Spencer's but there you go."

With a role like this do you enjoy disappearing into a character?

"It's quite a leap for me because I'm playing Jekyll as a posh Edinburgh doctor and Hyde as a Glaswegian. I'm burying myself in all that, but it's enjoyable getting deep into characters. You have to put the work in. [Laughs] Although I don't get deep enough to go around murdering people, of course."

Are you more Jekyll or Hyde? Or a bit of both?

"I think there's a little bit of me in both of them. There's a bit of snobbery in Hyde and a bit of swagger in Jekyll but also a bit of swagger in Hyde too. It's the same with all of us I suppose."

And finally, you'll play Wolverhampton Grand at the start of May. Does it have any significance for you?

"All of Blur's road crew are from Wolverhampton and because of my association with the band hopefully some of those boys will come see the show."

ANDY RICHARDSON

● **For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Express & Star every Friday.**

Isaac Gracie – debut album

Singer-songwriter Isaac is not Terrified any more

RISING star Isaac Gracie released his self-titled debut album last week and will be playing songs from it at Birmingham's O2 Institute tomorrow (Friday).

The singer-songwriter's mellow music has caused a stir and attracted growing attention with the singles Terrified and The Death of You & I.

With a voice apparently mature beyond his years, the 23-year-old former University of East Anglia creative writing student has been mentioned in the same breath as several greats. Having uploaded a demo version of his breakthrough song Last Words, he found it daunting to find his name placed alongside such music heroes as Jeff Buckley and Bob Dylan.

"I was like 'I'm no good! I can't write a song! You've got me wrong! It's difficult with that gaze because they want integrity, they want truth, the want honesty – but they also want a big old smash hit," he says.

"At that time of writing songs, it was purely to try and do justice to the things I was feeling."

Then he took time out of the spotlight to explore new musical territory and learn to interact with a full band. The result is his debut album. He says: "I feel, at this point, really ready to put out the record, ready to live by it and ready to learn from it. Then I'll go forward."

The pick of the gigs also includes: Saturday, Bolan boogie with T Rextasy, Bilston's Robin 2; Monday, Barenaked Ladies back with their 15th album Fake Nudes, O2 Institute; Wednesday, hard rockers Of Mice & Men, O2 Institute.

Express jazz from acclaimed guitarist

JAZZ guitarist Remi Harris, whose celebrity fans and collaborators include Jamie Cullum, will be performing at the Pizza Express in Brindley Place, Birmingham, tomorrow night (Friday).

Remi, pictured, has more than 40 dates booked with his jazz and blues trio travelling more than 6,000 miles in three months.

Remi's unique style draws inspiration from gypsy swing, blues, rock and world music. He has toured worldwide and performed on the Chris Evans Radio 2 breakfast show with Jamie Cullum, and has appeared at the Montreal Jazz Festival, the BBC Proms and on Radio 3. Jamie Cullum, who hosts his own jazz show on Radio 2, said, "Remi Harris is an incredible guitarist, I'm absolutely blown away by his talent."

Herefordshire-born Remi, 30, said, "I'm really looking forward to performing in Birmingham again, it has a rich history of great music and I always enjoy playing there. We've been working on new material and we're excited to be on the road again."

From the day he was born his mother, of French origin, chose the name Remi, inspired by the musical scale Do-Re-Mi. He called his first album 'Ninick' in memory of his mother.

Primarily self taught, Remi started playing at the age of seven, initially inspired by rock and blues guitarists such as Jimi Hendrix, Peter Green and Jimmy Page. In his late teens he developed an interest in jazz music, in particular artists such as Django Reinhardt and Wes Montgomery.

To book tickets contact www.remiharris.co.uk or call Pizza Express on 0207 4394962 and ask for the Birmingham show.

Magnum marking 50 years in music

British hard rock legends Magnum will perform at Birmingham Symphony Hall on Thursday as part of their Eternity World Tour. The rearranged show coincides with the release of their new album Lost on the Road to Eternity. Fronted by founders Bob Catley and Tony Clarkin, pictured, Magnum have become stalwarts of the classic rock scene in the UK over 50 years. The current five-piece line-up includes Rick Benton (keyboards), bassist Al Barrow and drummer Lee Morris.

Drag, disco, dance, comedy and science

Three men from West Bromwich Operatic Society will be putting on the flamboyant make up and outrageous frocks when the company brings disco hit-packed musical Priscilla Queen of the Desert to Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from Tuesday to Saturday. Based on the hit movie, the stage show follows the adventures of a troupe of drag queens across the Aussie Outback in an often hilarious and sometimes poignant road trip.

Strictly Come Dancing's Aljaz and Janette will be Remember Fred (Astaire) at Symphony Hall, Birmingham, on Saturday. That's the same night comedian Robin Ince, who co-presents BBC Radio 4's Infinite Monkey Cage science chat with Professor Brian Cox, brings his Pragmatic Insanity solo show to Wolverhampton's Arena Theatre.

SATURDAY'S TV APRIL 21

CHOICE

Queen Elizabeth II

The Queen's Birthday Party
(BBC1, 8pm)
A concert in celebration of Her Majesty The Queen's 92nd birthday, live from the Royal Albert Hall, featuring performances from acts from across the world and stars from around the Commonwealth. Tom Jones, Kylie Minogue, Craig David, Anne Marie, Shawn Mendes, Ladysmith Black Mambazo and Sting & Shaggy are among those taking part.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** The Hairy Bikers' Asian Adventure. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **1.00** BBC News. **1.15** The London Marathon: My Reason to Run. **1.45** Live Snooker: The World Championship. Coverage of two first-round matches involving Kyren Wilson and Ronnie O'Sullivan. **4.35** BBC News. **4.45** Regional Programme. **4.55** Match of the Day Live: The FA Cup. Manchester United v Tottenham Hotspur (Kick-off 5.15pm).

7.15 Pointless Celebrities. Diane Louise Jordan, the Rev Richard Coles, Nancy Dell'Olio, Matt Barbet, Sharron Davies, Mark Foster, Gyles Brandreth and Susan Calman all take part in the unorthodox quiz show. (R)

8.00 The Queen's Birthday Party. A concert in celebration of Her Majesty The Queen's 92nd birthday, live from the Royal Albert Hall, featuring performances from acts from across the world and stars from around the Commonwealth. Tom Jones, Kylie Minogue, Craig David, Anne Marie, Shawn Mendes, Ladysmith Black Mambazo and Sting & Shaggy are among those taking part.

9.40 Mrs Brown's Boys. Dermot's pre-marriage nerves get the better of him, so he locks himself away in a cupboard. (R)

10.10 BBC News; Weather.; National Lottery Update.

10.30 Match of the Day. Highlights of Saturday's two Premier League fixtures – Watford v Crystal Palace, and West Bromwich Albion v Liverpool.

11.00 MOTD: FA Cup Semi-Final Highlights. Dan Walker presents highlights of Manchester United v Tottenham Hotspur in the opening semi-final of this year's competition at Wembley Stadium.

11.20 The Button. Game show set simultaneously in the houses of five UK families, whose members compete to win challenges determined by The Button in the comfort of their living rooms. (R)

11.50 Film: The Recruit. (2003) A hacker is recruited into the CIA and is given a top-secret assignment to root out a mole within the agency's training programme. Thriller, starring Al Pacino and Colin Farrell.

1.40 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.45** BBC News.

BBC2

6.15 David Attenborough's Natural Curiosities. (R) **6.40** Naomi's Nightmares of Nature. (R) **7.10** The Pets Factor. **7.30** The Dengineers. **8.00** Absolute Genius: Monster Builds. **8.30** Beyond Bionic. **9.00** Robot Wars. (R) **10.00** Live Snooker: The World Championship. **12.00** Wanted Down Under. (R) **12.30** Trust Me, I'm a Doctor. (R) **1.30** Britain's Biggest Warship. (R) **2.30** Top of the Shop with Tom Kerridge. (R) **3.30** Top of the Shop with Tom Kerridge. (R) **4.30** Final Score. **5.15** Money for Nothing. (R)

6.00 Antiques Road Trip. In Liverpool, Natasha Raskin Sharp hopes for a big hit with a Sgt Pepper-style military jacket, while Charles Hanson finds two maritime-themed stained glass panels. (R)

7.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship. Jason Mohammad presents coverage of the concluding session on the opening day of the ranking tournament at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, where the first-round match involving Mark Selby is scheduled to conclude, and Ali Carter begins his campaign. Selby is given the honour of being involved in the first fixture of the tournament in his role as reigning champion, and the world number one is aiming to win the title for the fourth time in the last five years.

8.00 The Forest. An engineering team is called out to repair a 6-ton logging machine, while the owner of Balloch O'Dee campsite prepares to stage a comedy night. Mark Bonnar narrates.

8.30 Dad's Army. The vicar and the verger enlist in the Home Guard, but their over-enthusiastic man-management brings the wrath of Warden Hodges down upon the platoon. (R)

9.00 Imagine – Habaneros: You Say You Want a Revolution? Part One. Part one of two. Documentary exploring the lives of Havana residents in the wake of Raul Castro stepping down as president of Cuba, leaving the country facing an uncertain future.

10.00 Film: Testament of Youth. (2014) A young woman gives up her place at Oxford University to be a nurse during the First World War. Period drama, starring Alicia Vikander.

12.00 Snooker: The World Championship. **12.50** Snooker: World Championship Extra. **2.50** Civilisations. (R) **3.50** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Super 4. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.00** Star Wars Freemaker Adventures. (R) **7.25** The Tom and Jerry Show. (R) **7.30** Teen Titans Go! (R) **7.45** Adventure Time. (R) **8.00** Thunderbirds Are Go. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Zoe Ball on Saturday. **9.25** James Martin's Saturday Morning. **11.20 Film:** Nanny McPhee. (2005) **1.20** ITV News; Weather. **1.30** ITV Racing: Live from Ayr. Including the Coral Scottish Grand National Handicap Steeple Chase at 4.05. **4.30** You've Been Framed! (R) **5.00** The Chase. (R)

6.00 ITV News; Weather.

6.15 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.30 Ninja Warrior UK. A special celebrity edition of the obstacle-course challenge, with contestants including former Olympic athlete Katharine Merry and Kenzie from Blazin' Squad testing their strength, speed and courage. Those who make it to the end of the adrenaline-fuelled mission face one final task – scaling the heights of a tower named Mount Midoriyama. Hosted by Ben Shephard, Rochelle Humes and Chris Kamara.

7.30 Harry Hill's Alien Fun Capsule. Madcap panel show presented by the comedian, who presides over two teams nominally tasked with saving planet Earth from any potential alien invasion.

8.00 Britain's Got Talent. Ant and Dec host the nationwide talent search, which sees a wide variety of acts, from comedians to contortionists, singers to spoon players, compete to impress judges Simon Cowell, Amanda Holden, Alesha Dixon and David Walliams and win a huge cash prize and a coveted slot at the Royal Variety Performance.

9.20 The Keith & Paddy Picture Show. Keith Lemon and Paddy McGuinness recreate Top Gun, with a little help from Keith Allen, Sarah Parish and Marc Warren.

9.50 ITV News; Weather.

10.10 Film: Private Benjamin. (1980) A society widow enlists in the army in the hope of finding a new direction, but comes into conflict with her tough commanding officer. Comedy, with Goldie Hawn.

12.15 Change Your Tune. (R) **1.05** Jackpot247. **3.00** Babushka. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.15 Mobil 1: The Grid. **6.40** Motor Sport: Volkswagen Racing Cup. **7.05** The King of Queens. (R) **7.30** The King of Queens. (R) **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.20** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.55** Frasier. (R) **9.25** Frasier. (R) **9.55** Frasier. (R) **10.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.55** The Simpsons. (R) **12.25** The Simpsons. (R) **12.55** The Simpsons. (R) **1.25** Come Dine with Me. (R) **2.35** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) **4.30** Location, Location, Location. (R) **5.35** The Secret Life of the Zoo. (R)

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 The Restoration Man: Best Builds. George Clarke chooses four of his favourite church conversions from the programme, featuring a couple who hoped their old fisherman's church in Devon would bring them together, and a young father whose single-minded dedication to restoring a medieval Welsh chapel almost tore his family apart. Plus, the restoration novices who risked financial ruin to transform a Cumbrian village church's iconic spire, and a couple from Newcastle who battled the elements to create a bohemian artistic retreat 400 miles away in the Outer Hebrides. (R)

8.00 Britain's Most Historic Towns. Alice Roberts explores the Norman period of British history in Winchester. She attempts to storm a castle wearing chain mail and investigates the origins of modern surgery.

9.00 Film: Dirty Grandpa. (2016) Premiere. An uptight lawyer preparing to marry his boss's controlling daughter and secure a prestigious job is persuaded to drive his fun-loving grandfather to Florida. However, the old man is convinced his grandson is about to make a terrible mistake, and turns the road trip into a wildly hedonistic weekend in the hope of inspiring him to get more fun out of life. Comedy, starring Robert De Niro and Zac Efron.

11.00 Film: Colombiana. (2011) An orphan grows up to be an assassin while secretly plotting revenge on the gangsters who murdered her parents. Action thriller, starring Zoe Saldana and Cliff Curtis.

1.00 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. (R) **1.50** Hollyoaks. (R) **4.00** Building the Dream. (R) **4.55** The Question Jury. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **9.50** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.25** The Gadget Show. (R) **11.15** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.15** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.15** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.10** Police Interceptors. (R) **3.10** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **4.05** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **5.05** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away! (R)

6.00 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away! High Court enforcement officers Paul, Steve and Ben make a shocking discovery when they break into a home in Essex while serving an eviction notice on a single mother and her two children. Meanwhile, Stewart and Iain receive more than just threats from the staff and owner of a taxi business, a car dealer has to choose between paying up or losing his showroom stars, and an Indian restaurant owner is in danger of losing his livelihood. (R)

7.00 The Yorkshire Vet Casebook. Julian Norton needs to act fast to save a cow with heart failure, a beagle goes through a difficult birth and a hamster arrives for a simple procedure that ends up proving tricky.

8.00 The Dead Sea Treasure Map Mystery. Cameras observe a team of archaeologists following clues from the Copper Scroll, a map that is thought to lead to a treasure haul estimated to be worth $3billion. (R)

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Football on 5: The Championship. Colin Murray introduces highlights from the weekend's games in the Championship, including Bolton Wanderers v Wolverhampton Wanderers and Cardiff City v Nottingham Forest.

10.00 Football on 5: Goal Rush. Colin Murray introduces all the goals from the weekend's games in Leagues One and Two, including AFC Wimbledon v Oldham Athletic and Portsmouth v Charlton Athletic.

10.30 World's Deadliest Weather: Caught on Camera. Footage capturing the destruction and chaos caused by severe weather conditions, featuring first-hand accounts from those who have survived such events. (R)

11.30 Criminals: Caught on Camera. (R)

12.00 SuperCasino. **3.10** The Yorkshire Vet. (R) **4.00** Made in Yorkshire. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Atlantic: The Wildest Ocean on Earth **8.00** Wild Tales from the Village **9.00** Salamander: Blood Diamonds **10.35** Room 101 **11.05** Plunder: Spike Milligan **11.35** Spike Milligan: Assorted Q **12.35** Atlantic: The Wildest Ocean on Earth **1.35** Wild Tales from the Village **2.35** Room 101 **3.05** Plunder: Spike Milligan **3.35** Close

ITV2
11.25 Britain's Got More Talent **12.25** Ninja Warrior UK **1.30 Film:** Liar Liar (1997) **2.30** FYI Daily **2.35 Film:** Liar Liar (1997) **3.15 Film:** Yogi Bear (2010) **4.15** FYI Daily **4.20 Film:** Yogi Bear (2010) **4.55 Film:** Casper (1995) **5.55** FYI Daily **6.00 Film:** Casper (1995) **7.00 Film:** The Mummy (1999) **8.00** FYI Daily **8.05 Film:** The Mummy (1999) **9.20** Britain's Got More Talent **10.20** Celebrity Juice **11.10** Family Guy **12.35** American Dad! **1.30** The Cleveland Show **1.55** Plebs **2.20** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.45** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3
11.00 A Touch of Frost **3.20 Film:** Columbo: Forgotten Lady (1975) **4.55** Midsomer Murders **11.05** Vera **1.05** On the Buses **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4
1.50 Film: Bend of the River (1952) **2.50** FYI Daily **2.55 Film:** Bend of the River (1952) **3.45 Film:** Chisum (1970) **4.45** FYI Daily **4.50 Film:** Chisum (1970) **6.05 Film:** The Green Berets (1968) **7.05** FYI Daily **7.10 Film:** The Green Berets (1968) **9.00 Film:** Lethal Weapon 4 (1998) **10.05** FYI Daily **10.10 Film:** Lethal Weapon 4 (1998) **11.25 Film:** Crank: High Voltage (2009) **12.25** FYI Daily **12.30 Film:** Crank: High Voltage (2009) **1.30** Minder **2.25** The Protectors **2.55** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4
11.30 The Goldbergs **2.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **2.30** Young Sheldon **3.00 Film:** The Net (1995) **5.10** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **5.30** The Big Bang Theory **9.00 Film:** Red 2 (2013) **11.10** Gogglebox **12.15** The Inbetweeners **1.25** Tattoo Fixers **2.30** Rude Tube **3.25** Gogglebox **4.20** How I Met Your Mother **5.05** Rude(ish) Tube

Film4
11.00 Support Your Local Sheriff! (1969) **1.00** Dante's Peak (1997) **3.05** The Book of Life (2014) **5.00** Shrek (2001) **6.45** Super 8 (2011) **9.00** Predestination (2014) **10.50** Sinister (2012) **1.00** Grave of the Fireflies (1988) **2.55** Close

Star Reader Travel
Hand picked holidays with you in mind

Your Chronicle in association with leger holidays

Discover the Best of Europe

EXCLUSIVE READER OFFER!
SAVE £20pp on all tours.
Offer Code: READ

Enjoy one of our fully escorted touring holidays travelling by luxury coach.

✓ Holidays from only £259pp
✓ Luxury coaches with extra legroom
✓ £50pp low deposit
✓ FREE brochure – order now! ABTA ATOL

Local joining points: *Birmingham, Walsall, Cannock*, Wolverhampton*

Call 01709 385 526 (Quote: RP32) www.leger.co.uk

Terms & conditions apply. *Supplements may apply.

HALF PRICE
SUBSCRIPTION OFFER
JUST £2.00 PER MONTH (INC. P&P)

To subscribe call our free customer care hotline on 0800 146 540

Overseas 12-month gift subscriptions are available from: Europe £73.56, rest of the world £110.76 (Includes P&P, Direct Debit or Pre-payment)

WOLVERHAMPTON MAGAZINE

SUNDAY'S TV APRIL 22

CHOICE

Ben Hardy

The Woman in White (BBC1, 9pm)
New series. Adaptation of Wilkie Collins' novel, starring Ben Hardy as a teacher who has a startling encounter on Hampstead Heath with a woman who has escaped from a lunatic asylum. He later takes up a position as a drawing master in Cumbria, but as he falls in love with one of his pupils, he discovers a connection between her family and the strange woman's troubled past. With Charles Dance and Jessie Buckley.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.35** Match of the Day. (R) **8.10** MOTD: FA Cup Semi-Final Highlights. (R) **8.30** London Marathon. **2.00** BBC News; Weather. **2.15** Regional Programme. **3.30** Songs of Praise. **4.05** B.O.B.'s Big Break. (R) **4.15 Film:** Madagascar. (2005) Animated comedy, with the voice of Ben Stiller. **5.35** BBC News. **5.50** Regional Programme.

6.00 The Big Painting Challenge. The seven remaining artists are challenged to show off their waterscape painting skills during a visit to Loch Lomond. Firstly, they must paint a boat on the water during a particularly windy day, before creating a panoramic view of the entire lake. They also receive a masterclass on mixing colours before local members of the public choose a favourite to go through to next week's semi-final.

7.00 Countryfile. Anita Rani visits Norfolk to meet people who are keeping traditional English crafts alive. She visits a restored wind pump in Horsey, joins a group of reed cutters on the Norfolk Broads, and meets a man who has made it his mission to restore all of the county's ancient milestones. Finally, she meets a craftsman who makes cricket bats by hand and puts one of his creations to the test.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce presents the show from Castle Howard in Yorkshire, where items brought in to be valued include a rare jade Buddha and a collection of First World War aviation paintings.

9.00 The Woman in White. New series. Adaptation of Wilkie Collins' novel, starring Ben Hardy as a teacher delving into the mysterious and troubled history of a woman who has escaped from an asylum.

10.00 BBC News.

10.20 Regional Programme.

10.30 Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman introduces highlights of Arsenal v West Ham United and Stoke City v Burnley.

11.30 MOTD: FA Cup Semi-Final Highlights. Reshmin Chowdhury presents highlights of Chelsea v Southampton in the second semi-final of this season's competition at Wembley Stadium.

12.00 The Women's Football Show. **12.35** Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.40** BBC News.

BBC2

6.05 Life in a Cottage Garden with Carol Klein. (R) **6.35** Countryfile. (R) **7.30** The Beechgrove Garden. **8.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Live Snooker: The World Championship. **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** Gardeners' World. (R) **2.00** London Marathon. Concluding live coverage of the 38th staging of the annual event. **2.30** Live Snooker: The World Championship. The first-round matches involving Shaun Murphy and Ali Carter.

6.00 Nature's Biggest Beasts. The world's biggest beasts have always captured people's imagination. But while being big can have its advantages, it also comes with sizeable challenges. From the Komodo dragon, whose huge appetite means it must take on prey 10 times its weight, to the giraffe, whose long neck must control immense blood pressure, nature's biggest beasts must go to extraordinary lengths to thrive. This film tells just some of these survival stories. (R)

7.00 London Marathon Highlights. JJ Chalmers presents action from the 38th staging of the annual event, which saw tens of thousands of runners take on the famous 26.2-mile course.

8.00 Britain's Biggest Warship. HMS Queen Elizabeth goes on dangerous sea trials for the first time in the North Sea, where every part of the vessel is put to the test and the first aircraft lands on the deck.

9.00 My Year with the Tribe. Will makes his second trip to Indonesia and meets some other members of the Korowai tribe, only to find their lives are not as traditional as they initially appear.

10.00 Famalam. Comedy sketch show.

10.25 That's the Way, A-Ha, A-Ha, Joe Lycett. A performance from the comedian's award-winning live show, recorded at the Duchess Theatre in London's West End.

11.25 Snooker: The World Championship. The evening session on day two at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, featuring the conclusion of first-round matches involving Kyren Wilson and Marco Fu. Jason Mohammad presents.

12.15 Snooker: World Championship Extra. **2.15** Sign Zone: Question Time. (R) **3.15** Holby City. (R) **4.15** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Super 4. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.00** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **7.25** The Tom and Jerry Show. (R) **7.30** Teen Titans Go! (R) **7.45** Adventure Time. (R) **8.00** The Haunted Hathaways. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Zoe Ball on Sunday. **9.25** Love Your Garden. (R) **10.00** Peston on Sunday. **10.55** Ninja Warrior UK. (R) **11.55** ITV News; Weather. **12.05** Britain's Got Talent. (R) **1.25** Britain's Got More Talent. (R) **2.25** Britain's Brightest Family. (R) **3.00** The Queen's Green Planet. (R) **4.00** Change Your Tune. **5.00** The Chase: Celebrity Special. (R)

6.00 Harry Hill's Alien Fun Capsule. Madcap panel show presented by the comedian, who presides over two teams nominally tasked with saving planet Earth from any potential alien invasion. (R)

6.30 ITV News; Weather.

6.45 Regional Programme; Weather.

7.00 Little Big Shots. New series. Dawn French hosts a variety show featuring some of the world's most talented children, including a singing trio and a young dog trainer.

8.00 The Durrells. The family plans a party to celebrate Gerry's birthday, but the occasion is invaded by a swarm of mosquitoes. Louisa worries when Spiros locks himself in a room to sing sad songs.

9.00 The Good Karma Hospital. Ruby and Gabriel intervene in a dispute between two fishermen, and Lydia's former mentor asks for her help. Guest starring Sue Johnston (The Royle Family). Last in the series.

10.05 ITV News; Weather.

10.20 Peston on Sunday. Political magazine, presented by Robert Peston, featuring reports on the latest issues and interviews with topical guests. (R)

11.20 100 Year Old Driving School. A 91-year-old former teacher attempts to prove she is a good driver. Last in the series. (R)

11.50 This Time Next Year. Davina McCall meets a 45-year-old man who wants to track down his long-lost half-sister and a grandmother who wants to learn to read. (R)

12.40 Jackpot247. **3.00** British Superbike Championship Highlights. **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 The King of Queens. (R) **6.40** The King of Queens. (R) **7.05** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.25** Eat the Week. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast. (R) **1.30** The Simpsons. (R) **2.00** The Simpsons. (R) **2.25** The Simpsons. (R) **2.55 Film:** Dr Seuss' The Lorax. (2012) Animated fantasy, with the voice of Danny DeVito. **4.35** Location, Location, Location. (R) **5.35** Grand Designs. (R)

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Escape to the Chateau. Dick and Angel only have a few weeks to prepare for their wedding, but the chateau is nowhere near ready to receive the 200 guests they have invited and finding reliable, affordable workers is proving difficult. Dick oversees the damming of the moat and the installation of a new, eco-friendly sewage system, while Angel turns her attention to giving the rooms a distinctive decor. Last in the series. (R)

8.00 The Crystal Maze. Richard Ayoade guides a team of people who met while doing jury service together through the Aztec, Medieval, Industrial and Future zones of the Maze, tackling a range of skill, mystery, physical and mental challenges before the final journey to the Crystal Dome.

9.00 Homeland. Carrie is forced to choose a side, Keane needs an ally and Saul comes up with an idea. Espionage drama, starring Claire Danes, Mandy Patinkin, Elizabeth Marvel and Linus Roache.

10.15 Gogglebox. Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on TV from the comfort of their own sofas. (R)

11.10 Film: Easy A. (2010) Misfit teenager Olive lies about her non-existent sexual history, and uses the resulting rumours to become the talk of the school. Teen comedy, starring Emma Stone and Penn Badgley.

12.50 Film: Kahaani 2. (2016) Premiere. Crime thriller, starring Vidya Balan. **3.00** KOTV Boxing Weekly. **3.25** Mobil 1: The Grid. (R) **3.50** Come Dine Champion of Champions. A plumber, a lettings agent and a local communications officer battle it out. (R) **4.45** Building the Dream. (R) **5.40** Kirstie's Vintage Gems. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Little Princess. **6.10** Wissper. (R) **6.20** Poppy Cat. (R) **6.30** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **6.35** The Secret Life of Puppies. (R) **6.40** Mofy. (R) **6.45** Simon. (R) **6.50** Simon. (R) **6.55** Peppa Pig. (R) **7.05** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.15** Thomas & Friends. (R) **7.25** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.35** Olly the Little White Van. (R) **7.45** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.05** Paw Patrol. (R) **8.25** Nella the Princess Knight. (R) **8.40** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **8.55** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.10** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.20** Digby Dragon. (R) **9.35** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.45** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.55** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.30** Football on 5: The Championship. (R) **11.30** Football on 5: Goal Rush. (R) **12.00** Britain's Greatest Bridges. (R) **12.15** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.15** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.15 Film:** Dances with Wolves. (1990) Oscar-winning Western, starring Kevin Costner. **5.45 Film:** Pearl Harbor. (2001) Romantic Second World War drama, with Ben Affleck and Kate Beckinsale.

6.45 5 News Update.

6.50 Film: Pearl Harbor. (2001) Concluded.

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Diana to Meghan: Royal Wedding Secrets. A behind the scenes look at how previous royal weddings, to reveal how these lavish events are organised. Kiri Te Kanawa shares her memories of performing at the wedding of Prince Charles and Princess Diana, while florists, dressmakers, tailors, ring-makers, security guards, vicars and servants all provide the inside scoop on their role in the big day.

10.00 Film: The Big Wedding. (2013) Premiere. A divorced couple attend their adopted son's wedding, and pretend to still be married to avoid shocking his birth mother. Comedy, with Robert De Niro and Diane Keaton.

11.00 5 News Update.

11.05 Film: The Big Wedding. (2013) Concluded.

11.40 Brides Make You Laugh Out Loud. Iain Lee narrates a collection of internet videos featuring weddings. (R)

12.30 Funniest Fails, Falls & Flops. (R) **1.00** SuperCasino. **3.10** The Body in the Freezer: Countdown to Murder. (R) **4.00** Tattoo Disasters UK. (R) **4.45** House Doctor. (R) **5.10** Wildlife SOS. (R) **5.35** House Doctor. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Only Connect **7.30** University Challenge **8.00** Sounds of the Seventies **8.10** Natural World **9.00** Imagine – Habeneros: You Say You Want a Revolution? Part Two **10.30** Arena: Cigars – Out of the Humidor **11.30** Latin Music USA **12.30** Natural World **1.20** How to Be Bohemian with Victoria Coren Mitchell **2.20** Arena: Cigars – Out of the Humidor **3.20** Close

ITV2
11.50 Take Me Out: 10th Anniversary Special **12.50** You've Been Framed! Gold **1.50 Film:** The Mummy Returns (2001) **2.50** FYI Daily **2.55 Film:** The Mummy Returns (2001) **4.15** Britain's Got Talent **5.35** Britain's Got More Talent **6.40 Film:** The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (2001) **7.55** FYI Daily **8.00 Film:** The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (2001) **10.00** Family Guy **11.30** American Dad! **12.25 Film:** What If (2013) **1.25** FYI Daily **1.30 Film:** What If (2013) **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV3
11.50 A Touch of Frost **1.50** Agatha Christie's Marple **3.55** Inspector Morse **6.00** Lewis **8.00** The Cruise **9.00** Tommy Cooper Forever **10.00** Tommy Cooper: Not Like That, Like This **12.10** Blue Murder **2.05** Tommy Cooper Forever **2.55** Stephen Fry's Key to the City

ITV4
1.20 Mr Bean **2.25** The Big Fish Off **3.35 Film:** The Green Berets (1968) **4.40** FYI Daily **4.45 Film:** The Green Berets (1968) **6.25 Film:** The Spy Who Loved Me (1977) **7.25** FYI Daily **7.30 Film:** The Spy Who Loved Me (1977) **9.00 Film:** Assassins (1995) **10.05** FYI Daily **10.10 Film:** Assassins (1995) **11.40 Film:** Safe House (2012) **12.40** FYI Daily **12.45 Film:** Safe House (2012) **1.55** It's Not Rocket Science **2.55** ITV4 Nightscreen

E4
1.30 The Big Bang Theory **5.30** Young Sheldon **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **6.30 Film:** Snow White & the Huntsman (2012) **9.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **10.00** The Inbetweeners **11.10** The Big Bang Theory **12.10** Tattoo Fixers **1.15** Rude Tube **2.45** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **3.35** Hollyoaks

Film4
11.00 Support Your Local Gunfighter (1971) **1.00** Mirror Mirror (2012) **3.05** Carry On Constable (1960) **4.45** Congo (1995) **6.55** Rise of the Planet of the Apes (2011) **9.00** Mission: Impossible – Ghost Protocol (2011) **11.35** 3:10 to Yuma (2007) **2.00** Radiator (2014) **3.55** Close

FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Social Nightmare, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A-grade student Catherine Hardy's chances of securing a place at a good college are placed in jeopardy when inappropriate pictures and messages begin to appear on her social network profiles. It quickly becomes clear her accounts have been targeted by a malicious hacker, and she must discover whether the culprit is her boyfriend, a jealous schoolmate competing for a place at the same college, or someone much closer to home. Mystery thriller, starring Kirsten Prout. (2013)

TUESDAY
Secrets of Eden, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A small community is shocked when a local man murders his wife, then kills himself. A detective uncovers evidence of an affair between the dead woman and the town's pastor and begins to suspect he may be implicated in the tragedy. To learn the truth, she must gain the trust of the couple's troubled teenage daughter. Drama, starring John Stamos and Anna Gunn. (2012)

Tropic Thunder, Friday, BBC1, 11.50pm

WEDNESDAY
Profile for Murder, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A criminal profiler retires to live in California with her family and move on from the horrific crime that ended her career. Her idyllic life is shattered when she discovers the serial killer responsible has escaped from prison and is intent on terrorising her. Thriller, starring Nicki Aycox and Steve Bacic. (2013)

THURSDAY
Patricia Cornwell's The Front, Channel 5, 3.15pm
Detective Win Garano is recruited to reinvestigate a decades-old murder, but finds someone is killing all the witnesses. Mystery drama, starring Andie MacDowell and Daniel Sunjata. Edited for daytime broadcast. (2010)

FRIDAY
Tropic Thunder, BBC1, 11.50pm
The cast of a Vietnam War movie unknowingly wanders into the middle of a real-life conflict. Comedy, directed by and starring Ben Stiller, with Jack Black and Robert Downey Jr. (2008)

PICK OF THE WEEK

A Stern lesson awaits Hannah in leaving the family business

Lock all your doors, close the curtains and ignore any bleeps from your mobile – a new Abi Morgan TV project is about to start, so you really don't want to be disturbed.

Cardiff-born Morgan is one of the most gifted scriptwriters around today, whether she's working for the stage or screen.

Plays such as Splendour, Tiny Dynamite and The Mistress Conduct have been acclaimed, but she's gained more recognition for her film work (she wrote the screenplays for The Iron Lady and Shame, among others) and TV (the hugely underrated The Hour and Sex Traffic head her CV).

She's returning to the small screen this week with The Split, her first project for the medium since 2015's River.

"The Split will be an emotional and entertaining exploration of love, marriage and divorce, with Abi bringing her trademark wit, insight and truth to our two brilliant and strong women fighting to try and work out how to survive modern life," says executive producer Jane Featherstone.

At its heart is the rather fraught relationship between three members of the same family – matriarch Ruth and her daughters Hannah, Nina and Rose.

While Rose, the younger sister, is still searching for her place in life and Nina is proving to be a formidable legal eagle, Hannah is a top divorce lawyer who had been working for her family's firm – until Ruth denied her the promotion she felt she deserved, prompting her to take a job with a rival company. Now mother, daughter and sister find themselves locking horns over complex divorce cases rather than collaborating.

"As Robin Williams once said 'Divorce is expensive… like ripping your heart out through your wallet,'" smiles Morgan. "The Split exposes the complex realities of high end divorce and broken marriage through female divorce lawyers and sisters embattled and bound by their own troubled past."

Heading the cast is Nicola Walker, who's best known for her performances in Last Tango in Halifax and Unforgotten, but who also had a supporting role in the aforementioned River. She takes the part of Hannah.

"I'm delighted to be joining the Defoe family and walking in Hannah's shoes as she picks her way through other people's marriages and relationships, all the while questioning her own," claims the star.

Hannah is married to the smart and affable Nathan (Stephen Mangan), and they appear to be well-matched and happy – until her estranged father, who deserted his family 30 years earlier, appears out of the blue, prompting her to question all her male relationships.

To throw a further spanner in the works, Hannah is reconnecting with Christie, 'the one who got away'…

Also included in the cast are Meera Syal and Stephen Tompkinson as former childhood sweethearts Goldie and Davey.

Nicola Walker stars in The Split, Tuesday, BBC1, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Holidays Unpacked
Channel 4, 8pm
New series. Brits spend about £1,000 each on a week's holiday in the summer sun, with the majority heading to the Mediterranean. But could more fun be had for the same money? In this programme, Morland Sanders and Lucy Hedges road test up-and-coming travel destinations, taking viewers to on-trend destinations on everyday budgets. The first edition sees Lucy visit Israel to explore the desert and float in the Dead Sea, while Morland samples Costa Rica's pristine Pacific beaches and takes a zip-line through the cloud forest.

Fergie vs Wenger: The Feud
Channel 5, 10pm
Channel 5 have issued a warning with this programme - apparently it contains highly offensive language. Oo-er. Those of us of a particularly sensitive nature had better not tune in; then again, would we expect anything else from a football-related programme? Alex Ferguson and Arsene Wenger's rivalry is legendary and went on for years. Ferguson turned Manchester United into the English top flight's dominant force, while Wenger's Arsenal would occasionally nip in to steal their thunder if the Red Devils ever slipped up. Both men had very different approaches to the beautiful game - while one favoured a traditional approach, the other learnt valuable lessons from advances in sports science. Here, those who crossed their paths, including Paul Scholes, Steve McClaren, John Motson and Sol Campbell, offer their views.

TUESDAY
Flight HS13
Channel 4, 11pm
Like so many foreign language series to pop up on Channel 4 these days, this one comes courtesy of the streaming service Walter Presents and the box set of every episode will be available immediately after the first has aired tonight. But, if you prefer to watch dramas the old-fashioned way, fear not because we'll be drip-fed this Dutch thriller here every Tuesday for the next 10 weeks. The plot focuses on happily married Simon and Liv, who appear to have the perfect lives complete with a wonderful son, a beautiful home and successful careers. However, at a family reunion held to mark their offspring's birthday, a surprise guest shakes things up. The next day, Simon leaves for a medical conference in Barcelona - and shortly afterwards, Liv's life is thrown into disarray by the worst possible news.

Holidays Unpacked, Monday, Channel 4, 8pm

WEDNESDAY
Britain's Fat Fight with Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall
BBC1, 9pm
Britain is on track to become the fattest country in Europe by 2025 – unless Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall has his way, that is. In this new series, he'll be trying to find out how obesity became such a problem and what we can do to stop it. That involves investigating some of the UK's biggest food brands and working alongside the GPs and pharmacists who are tackling the problem on the frontlines. But at the heart of the series is a ground-breaking social experiment which sees Hugh challenging the people of Newcastle to lose 100,000lbs over the course of a year. With the help of the city's council, he'll be encouraging the locals to make changes to their diet and get involved in physical activities, but can they collectively reach the ambitious target?

THURSDAY
The Truth About Obesity
BBC1, 8pm
Nearly one in four people in the UK qualifies as being obese, meaning their weight is significantly affecting the state of their health. Presenter Chris Bavin seeks out the latest research into obesity and the problems that are being passed down to future generations. He finds out what it means to be obese, what it does to the body and looks at the most up-to-date solutions available. He also reveals how viewers can test themselves with a simple piece of string to find out if they have the most damaging type of fat.

FRIDAY
Our Wildest Dreams
Channel 4, 8pm
New series. Ex-executive Mari leaves south-east London for a new life in Ecuador, hoping the move with her native husband and their young daughter will bring her family closer.

TIME FOR A NEW GARAGE DOOR?
GREAT NEWS!! YOU'VE GOT YOUR TIMING SPOT ON!
The Electronic roller-door is possibly the most popular garage door by a mile. There are obvious reasons why; space saving, extra width, extra height, neat and compact, totally secure, reliable and safe, maintenance free - the list goes on... Many companies charge between **£2500 and £3000 for a Rolling Garage Door. But when it comes to quality and price, We are possibly the best in the UK - by a mile!! We are one of the biggest UK door manufacturers. You will see, with us you will save yourselves ££££s for a truly fantastic new door.
**£2500! OUR PRICE £875!!
NOW ONLY £799
INCLUDING FITTING: LIMITED TIME ONLY

PREPARE TO BE IMPRESSED:
- Totally bespoke, made to measure!!
- We take away your old door FREE OF CHARGE
- Top quality electric operated rolling garage door
- Double skinned top quality insulated aluminium
- Totally maintenance free
- So neat & compacted & space saving, giving you extra width & extra height
- White as standard, other colours available
- Roller garage doors, absolute top quality garage door, for lower than UK high street DIY retailer

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THIS SPECIAL DEAL
CALL NOW 01376 571778
www.roller-shutter-doors-uk.com

HENLEY FUNERAL DIRECTORS
Independently Family Owned and Run Business
Proudly Serving Families And The Local Community
For Over 2 Decades
Funerals From £1295 Plus Crematorium Fee (T&Cs Apply)
Private Family Rooms - Private Chapels of Rest
Home Visits Available on Request
Pre Planned Funerals
CALL FREE ON 0800 05 665 64
Emily House, Warley Road, Oldbury

Window and Door Repairs

Specialists in: Misty and broken glass units
Leaks, seals and drafts
Handles, hinges and locks - repaired or replaced • INSURANCE WORK - NO PROBLEM
Rectification of badly fitted installations
ALL WORK GUARANTEED
GUESTS
Over 25 years experience – COMPETITIVE PRICES!!!
For Free advice and quote call Mark Guest on
01384 456490 or 07976 227034

BLINDS
SANDWELL - www.blind-deals.co.uk
BEST DEAL! 3 child safe verticals £98 one per household offer
NO OBLIGATION HOME QUOTE
ALL PRICES INCLUDE FREE MEASURE & FITTING
HUGE CHOICE OF POPULAR FABRICS & GENEROUS SIZE RESTRICTIONS
CALL FREE contact your local advisor to see our fabric range & other available deals
0800 0214266

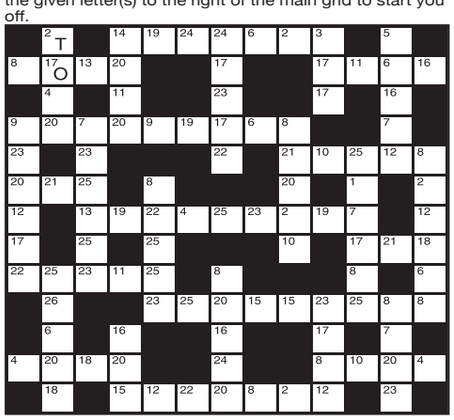
BRAMWELL WILLIAMS SOLICITORS adcocks
Providing legal services in West Bromwich for over 100 years
Wills & Estates
Commercial
Leasehold Reform
Property
Legal services available locally
Tel: 08454 70 80 81
Email: info@adcocks.com Web: www.adcocks.com

BRAIN GYM

No.476

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



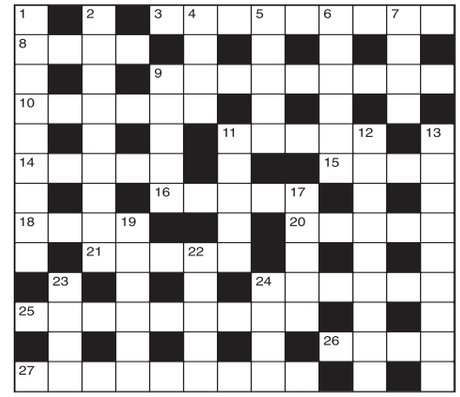
1	14
2 T	15
3	16
4	17 O
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
T	R	O	D	N	B	A	P	K	G	Z	H	Y
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Q	M	F	S	X	I	E	W	U	L	V	C	J

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

3. Plenty in favour of a merger (9)
8. Dash from Iceland (4)
9. Sluggard making little progress with a tutor (9)
10. Class a number as precise (6)
11. Almost rate as fools (5)
14. Rob with a gun (5)
15. Absorbed with a new part (4)
16. Wounds in a most absent-minded way (5)
18. A vessel that has been taken out of the water (4)
20. Acted strangely for a Service trainee (5)
21. Stretch - of river? (5)
24. Others acquire their habits from him (6)
25. Went to pieces when praised (7,2)
26. Norwegians live in what was Czechoslovakia (4)
27. Pay a visit after some persuasion? (4,5)

Down

1. Man of action, in his turn (9)
2. Not a bad bid for the roundabouts? (4,5)
4. List a waiter may be asked for (4)
5. Colours and becomes servile (5)
6. Rather earlier (6)
7. Not often seen in London certainly! (4)
9. These are sure to be brisk for beer on board (5)
11. Partly under water from waves caused by a passing vessel (5)
12. Old-timer (9)
13. Specify space available for a first-class passenger (9)
17. Throw away a fight? (5)
19. Possibly secure and free from danger (6)
22. Communist firm about belief (5)
23. After hesitation leave thus (4)
24. A diverting act? (4)

Quick Clues:

Across

3. Declaration (9)
8. Shape (4)
9. Liveliness (9)
10. Vigour (6)
11. Pondered (5)
14. Chop finely (5)
15. Tear (4)
16. Occurrence (5)
18. Fling (4)
20. Get up (5)
21. Compass (5)
24. Claim (6)
25. Detour (9)
26. Signify (4)
27. The accused (9)

Down

1. Consequences (9)
2. Immaturity (9)
4. Small (4)
5. Time (5)
6. Affair (6)
7. Mid-day (4)
9. Concur (5)
11. Bit (5)
12. Devoted (9)
13. Retainer (9)
17. Seized (5)
19. Plan (6)
22. Sat for picture (5)
23. Conceal (4)
24. In adversity (4)

Sudoku

4					9			7
		3		6		5		1
	7		5		1		4	
9		8						
	2			3	4		9	
				7		4		6
	8		1		6		5	
	6	4		5		7		
2			7			6		8

Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

2	7	3	8	6	9	5	1	4
6	5	9	3	1	4	8	7	2
1	8	4	2	5	7	6	3	9
5	1	7	9	8	3	4	2	6
9	6	2	5	4	1	7	8	3
3	4	8	6	7	2	1	9	5
7	3	5	4	2	8	9	6	1
8	2	6	1	9	5	3	4	7
4	9	1	7	3	6	2	5	8

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Cold; 3 Educator; 8 Neon; 9 Returned; 11 Poor relation; 13 Rating; 14 Grocer; 17 Prison record; 20 Primates; 21 Zinc; 22 Speedier; 23 Aged. Down: 1 Conspire; 2 Look out; 4 Dwells; 5 Court order; 6 Tango; 7 Ride; 10 Grandstand; 12 Produced; 15 Crowing; 16 Inhere; 18 Raise; 19 Opus.
QUICK - Across: 1 Pact; 3 Dampness; 8 Real; 9 Predator; 11 Embarrassing; 13 Strict; 14 Proper; 17 Evil speaking; 20 Extended; 21 Maze; 22 Besieged; 23 Less. Down: 1 Perverse; 2 Chamber; 4 Airman; 5 Pedestrian; 6 Eaten; 7 Sure; 10 Truculence; 12 Progress; 15 Private; 16 Sphere; 18 Votes; 19 Herb.

Quiz

1. Who played Fred's mother-in-law in the 1994 live action film The Flintstones?
2. In which country did King Farouk abdicate in 1952?
3. Which Beatles song was covered by 1,186 performers in its first seven years?
4. What type of animal is the blackcap?
5. On which Scottish island was John Smith buried?
6. On what date does Epiphany fall?
7. Which artform uses labanotation?
8. Which food sustained the Israelites in the wilderness?
9. In which country is Doi Inthanon the highest mountain?
10. In which year was the Suez Crisis?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Nelson Mandela; 2 The New Yorker; 3 A snake; 4 Rhine; 5 1978; 6 Hansard; 7 The Spanish Armada Medal; 8 Sir Compton Mackenzie; 9 Chile; 10 Marshal.

Niner: ALCHEMIST

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

16345276 gives a small animal,
1278 gives a second small animal,
9537 gives small particles.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

MNA DIGITAL

STAND OUT FROM YOUR RIVALS

Advertise your business on the **Express & Star** website
www.expressandstar.com

To find out how you can benefit call MNA Digital on 01902 319730

Girlie lunch just in the Nick of time

OH, to be ladies what lunch. My friend and I lived our improbable dream with a lunch date at the swanky Harvey Nichols Restaurant in The Mailbox.

Just to give you a bit of background, I met said friend at a pregnancy yoga class. In our pre-child naivety, we thought our maternity year would be littered with lunches together; elegant affairs in which we'd sip Prosecco and nibble chiccetti-style plates while spooning Ella's Kitchen mush into the mouths of our contended babes, who absolutely weren't demanding Peppa Pig on YouTube.

How wrong we were. I seem to remember our only 'lunch date' was a rather fraught hour spent with our little ones in Nando's, ending in us both exhausted and apologising to waiting staff for the amount of debris under the table. Hardly what we'd envisaged.

FRAUGHT

So on a child-free, work-free Thursday we ventured into town for a day of shopping and lunching, with the possibility of a swim afterwards. We felt just like the happy-go-lucky teenagers we once were, but with more than a bus pass, a cute boy's phone number (home landline, obvs) and a fiver in our pockets.

After a morning mooching round the shops we headed to Harvey Nicks for a spot of lunch. It's a sophisticated venue which feels very grown-up, ideal for boozy brunches, lunches, afternoon teas and cocktail-soaked dinners with friends. An Art Deco-inspired space, it has a beautiful buffed parquet floor, and on-trend use of gold, leather and pastel pink and green.

On this occasion the restaurant was quiet and we had the pick of the tables even though I'd made a booking on the website. As we moved on to the wine the 'possibility' of going swimming afterwards was becoming probably impossible. Oh well. She ordered a glass of Sauvignon Blanc while I pushed the boat out with a £10 glass of Sancerre. It was delicious, golden nectar and went straight to my head.

Burger and fries – but not as you know it

Art Deco appeal – sophisticated dining

When Harvey Nicks relaunched in the Mailbox a few years ago, the restaurant menu was curated by Yummy Brummie Michelin star chef Glynn Purnell. However, recently Stewart Mackie has taken over as head chef and – similarly to before – the menu is packed with temptation; choices include salads, risottos, and burgers. There are a couple of steaks on offer for hungry carnivores, and a reasonably-priced special menu offers three courses for £22.

My friend chose the risotto topped with halloumi and aubergine, while I chose the sweet potato and chickpea tagine with grilled courgette.

Our food arrived and looked delish. Light-headed from the wine, I eagerly tucked into my tagine. The veg were well cooked, not overly soft however, the dish as a whole was a bit bland.

My friend said her comforting bowl of risotto was lovely and creamy with just the right amount of bite.

For dessertI chose the sticky toffee pud and vanilla ice cream for which I'm sure I'd need to swim an entire ocean to burn off its calorie content. The giant wedge of airy sponge was as wicked as I expected.

Meanwhile, my friend opted for the peanut butter cheesecake with popcorn and blackberries. She polished off the lot and didn't offer me any so it must have been good.

The bill, including service, came to just over £70. reasonable for such an agreeable lunch. An adult day out, just in the Nick of time! EMILY BRIDGEWATER

Star Reader Travel
Hand picked holidays with you in mind

Your Chronicle in association with Omega

Strictly Ballroom

Based on the iconic film Strictly Ballroom, championship ballroom dancer Scott decides to break the rules, teaming up with his uncoordinated partner Fran and developing his own choreography in the aim of winning a prestigious dance competition.

Enjoy classic songs like Love is in the Air, Perhaps Perhaps Perhaps and Time After Time alongside a variety of catchy new numbers and sensationally choreographed routines that are sure to entertain.

London Theatre Break

2 Days By Coach - Evening Show

Departing Saturday 16 Jun

From Cannock, Walsall & Wolverhampton

Price Includes...

- ✔ Return coach travel
- ✔ Overnight stay at a 3 or 4-star outer London hotel with full English breakfast
- ✔ Strictly Ballroom ticket – Grand Circle (evening performance)
- ✔ Free time in London

2 Days By Coach only **£119**

The Tina Turner Musical

Nobody ever did storming, gyrating rock goddess like Tina Turner, one of the best-selling artists in history, whose rasping power vocal, tempestuous personal life and sheer survival instinct were just begging to be turned into a rock opera.

Well now it has been, in a show written by Olivier award-winning playwright Katori Hall and directed by the internationally acclaimed Phyllida Lloyd, and you can see it erupt onto the stage at London's Aldwych Theatre. With coach travel, hotel accommodation and free time in London, this isn't just a great deal – it's Simply the Best!

London Theatre Break

2 Days By Coach - Evening Show

Departing Saturday 16 Jun

From Cannock, Walsall & Wolverhampton

Price Includes...

- ✔ Return coach travel
- ✔ Overnight stay at a 3 or 4-star outer London hotel with full English breakfast
- ✔ The Tina Turner Musical theatre ticket - Grand Circle (evening performance)
- ✔ Free time in London

2 Days By Coach only **£149**

Also Available

on this package and date

2 Days By Coach only **£129**

2 Days By Coach only **£109**

2 Days By Coach only **£139**

2 Days By Coach only **£149**

Call or visit us online for even more top London shows and available dates

Omega Holidays cannot be held responsible for the non-appearance of a particular actor/actress; no refunds will be given in this event. Whilst we always try to ensure that parties are seated together, very occasionally, it may be necessary for parties to be split. Couples are always seated together. Tours offered subject to availability. Errors and omissions excepted. Prices shown are per person, based on two people sharing a dbl/twin room. Single supplements apply.

For more information or to book, please call: **03300 130 051** Quote **OMRT** 033 numbers are free within inclusive minutes packages otherwise standard rates apply. or visit us online at **omegabreaks.com/RT**

ABTA Travel with confidence ABTA No. V4782

PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING

Terraced house a short distance from town centre

An ideal first time buy or investment opportunity, this three-bedroomed mid terraced property in Turner Street, West Bromwich, lies a short distance away from the town centre.

It is for sale through Skitts Estate Agents at £140,000.

West Bromwich town centre has an abundance of amenities, such as the New Square shopping complex. The property is also a short distance away from multiple good local schools and travel links.

Its accommodation briefly comprises an entrance hallway, a lounge, a kitchen, a bathroom, three bedrooms and well maintained front and rear gardens.

The frontage has steps and a gate up to the front door flanked by a lawn.

The entrance hall has stairs off to the first floor and a door into the lounge. This has a double-glazed bay window to the front, a gas fire and a door into the kitchen.

Having an under stairs storage cupboard, the kitchen has a double-glazed window to the rear, a range of fitted wall and base units, a sink with a drainer and a mixer tap, a door into the rear garden and a door into the bathroom.

The bathroom has a double-glazed window overlooking the rear, a bath with a shower over, a wash hand basin and a low level WC.

Off the first floor landing, bedroom one has two double-glazed windows facing the front, and a storage cupboard.

Bedroom two has a double glazed window facing the rear.

Bedroom three has a double-glazed window overlooking the rear, radiator and a storage cupboard.

To the back of the house is a beautiful and well-maintained rear garden with a patio area, a grass lawn and an array of different shrubs and borders.

The rear garden is long and spacious, being carefully tended with space for more than one storage shed.

WEST BROMWICH £140,000

TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

AGENT: Skitts Estate Agents
TEL: 0121 520 2255
EMAIL: greatbridge@skitts.net

KEY FEATURES

- Ideal first-time buy/investment
- 3 bedrooms
- Well maintained gardens
- Near town centre
- Close to schools & travel links

Forthcoming Auction

Cottons
CHARTERED SURVEYORS

Thursday 24th May 2018
to be held at The Aston Villa Football Club

GOING ONCE
GOING TWICE
SOLD!

Considering Selling by Auction?
Call for your FREE No Obligation Appraisal

Considering Buying at Auction?
Call for your FREE Catalogue

Auctioneers of Residential and Commercial Property, Land and Development Opportunities

Tel: 0121 247 2233 or email:auctions@cottons.co.uk
www.cottons.co.uk

Property with five bedrooms and large garden

This spacious five-bedroomed family home in Burn Close, Smethwick, is well presented throughout.

It is for sale through Connells Estate Agents at £369,995. It has two garages, a large rear garden and a private driveway, downstairs WC, dining room, a lounge, second reception room, kitchen and a front garden.

The entrance hall has a downstairs WC off. The lounge has sliding doors from the entrance hall.

SMETHWICK £369,995

The second reception room has windows to the front.

The dining room has sliding doors from the lounge and a patio door. The kitchen has a gas oven and a gas hob with a cooker-hood, a dish-washer, fridge freezer, under-stairs storage and a door to the two garages. Of the five bedrooms, one has an en-suite. The family bathroom has a wash hand basin, low level WC, a bath with chrome mixer taps and a shower over and is fully tiled.

Outside is a private driveway with evergreens and shrubs either side of it, a lawned area with small planted ever greens. The rear garden has a large patio area with a lawn area, stairs down to a water fall area.

To book a viewing, call Connells on 0121 212 0800.

SDL AUCTIONS
BIGWOOD

SELL YOUR PROPERTY UNDER THE HAMMER

with the West Midlands' most successful auction network*

Entries now invited for our next auction on
Wednesday 23rd May at **Aston Villa FC**

CALL US TODAY ON
0121 233 5046

www.sdlauctions.co.uk

*based on 2016 figures from Essential Information Group for number of lots sold for auctioneers based in the West Midlands

LOCAL PROPERTY EXPERTS FOR OVER 40 YEARS

SKITTS
ESTATE AGENTS

ROAD TO SUCCESS

SKITTS
ESTATE AGENTS

For a free property valuation contact your local branch

wolverhampton@skitts.net 01902 788188
willenhall@skitts.net 01902 631151
wednesfield@skitts.net 01902 732324
wednesbury@skitts.net 0121 505 1818
sedgley@skitts.net 01902 686868
greatbridge@skitts.net 0121 520 2255
bilston@skitts.net 01902 353578
bloxwich@skitts.net 01922 478104

Four-bed property is new to the market

WEST BROMWICH
£370,000

New to the property market, this ultra modern four-bedroomed detached home in Marnham Road, West Bromwich, lies on the ever popular Churchfields Estate.

It is for sale through Connells Estate Agents at £370,000.

The property features stunning living space and would be perfect for a growing family. The house includes a kitchen/diner, a large conservatory, an en-suite, guest WC, off-road parking and an integral garage.

Being L-shaped, the kitchen/diner comes with an electric oven, gas hob, cooker hood over, plumbing for a washing machine and a door leading to the garden.

Contact Connells on 0121 525 1177.

Home with a large garden in an area popular with families

ROWLEY REGIS
£244,950 <<<

Having possibly one of the largest gardens in Rowley Regis, this three-bedroomed detached house in Oldbury Road, Rowley Regis, is ideally positioned in this popular area.

With planning permission granted for an extension, it is for sale through loveyourpostcode.com at offers over £244,950.

This property has a wealth of amenities on its doorstep.

Recently refurbished throughout, it has ample living space, well-proportioned bedrooms and schooling within walking distance.

It has a porch, entrance hall, lounge, second reception, newly fitted kitchen, downstairs bathroom and three bedrooms

Call loveyourpostcode.com on 0800 862 0870.

CROWD PLEASER

Don't miss out on our last remaining, popular, 2 bedroom Morton homes. Available with carpets,* reserve yours now before it's too late.

DISCOVER the extraordinary difference in our thoughtfully designed new homes

EXPERIENCE our impressive specification, which includes appliances, fitted wardrobes and en-suite to master bedrooms

JOIN US and see the lifestyle you can have with the Kier way of living

2 and 3 bedroom homes from £134,995
Help to Buy also available**

Help to Buy

WHERE UNRIVALLED LIVING BEGINS

THE LAURELS
off Ocker Hill Road, Tipton DY4 0UW

OPEN: Thursday - Monday 10am - 5pm
TELEPHONE: 07548 710763
EMAIL: thelaurelssales@kier.co.uk

KIER

www.kierliving.co.uk

CGI of the 2 bedroom Morton at The Laurels. Elevations and finishes may vary. *Available on selected plots subject to terms and conditions. **Help to buy available upon request subject to terms and conditions.

Local Specialists

Aeriels

MATT WALTERS DIGITAL AERIALS
your LOCAL Aerial/Satellite specialist
Aerials - Satellite Dishes Fitted From £65
ANY LIKE FOR LIKE
QUOTATION BEATEN
Senior Citizen Discounts
2 Year Guarantee
Digital Aerials/Freeview/Freesat
SKY HD/ SKY+/MULTIROOM
SKY Q specialist
• Free Quotation • Repairs • Free Call Out
• Same Day service • Freeview Specialist
£10 OFF ON PRODUCTION OF THIS ADVERT
Sandwell Based
0121 441 2891
Mobile: 07853 253176

J. J. Digital Aerials
Installation of Digital, Freeview & Satellite
WE GUARANTEE TO BEAT ANY LIKE FOR LIKE QUOTE
AERIALS £65 - SATELLITE £80
SELF EMPLOYED EXPERT WHO YOU CAN TRUST
Friendly, reliable service
0121 5306785/ 07919 597626

Builders

HUNTER BUILD
* Kitchen and Bathroom Specialist * UPVC Windows and Doors
* Fascia and Soffits * Plastering and Tiling
* Complete House Renovations * Family Run Business
For quote
07752 506695 | 0121 556 7203

Carpentry

Simply Doors Walsall
Internal & External Door Suppliers & Fitters
6 internal pre-finished doors fully fitted for £450 complete with handles
External UPVC and composite doors *also available*
VISIT OUR SHOWROOM
Unit 44, Pleck Road, Walsall WS2 9XX
01922 623151 or 07810 122133
www.simplydoorswalsall.co.uk
Opening Hours Mon-Fri 10am - 5pm Sat 10am - 2pm

Carpets

Family Run — Est since 1978
Able & Bromley Carpets / Beds
SOFAS - VINYLS - LAMINATES - STAIRLIFTS
WE DO WHAT OTHER CARPET FIRMS WON'T.
Help move heavy furniture, up lift plus take away old carpets plus Shave Doors
FREE DELIVERY DISPOSAL - AND SET UP ON BEDS & SUITES
Choose at Home Service
Free Quotations and Measuring.
We'll bring 100's of carpet samples bed and sofa brochures to your door
Double Divan Bed
Free Headboard
2 Free Drawers
Was £699 **Now £399**
3 Seater Sofa only **£399**
Divan Beds and Mattresses from only **£72**
Carpets *from* **£3.50**sq yd
UP TO 50% OFF
PLUS FREE FITTING (on selected carpets T & C's Apply)
Check out our video and 5 star reviews on
We cover all areas www.ablecarpets.co.uk
Find us on Google Maps
0121 588 7116 West Brom, Walsall Wednesbury
0121 530 3633 Tipton, Oldbury Smethwick
01902 880541 Upper Gornal Sedgley, W'ton

Decorating

Colour Zone
Interior & exterior painting and decorating
• Special rates for OAPs
• 25 years experience
• Fully insured
0121 434 5679 07507 070786

Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning

CLEANCARE
Carpet & Upholstery Cleaners
Fully Trained
Insured
Est:over 12 years
Friendly service
For free quotes Call
(07816) 817744
Tel:0121 503 0854
www.cleancarehalesowen.co.uk

M&B PAINTING & DECORATORS
Over 25 years experience
NO JOB TOO SMALL
All quotes include white paint for woodwork and ceilings
For a FREE friendly quote
Call Mick on 07896054108 or Bart on 07825568581

Electricians

ELECTRICIAN
Fully guaranteed work
Honest reliable service
ANT ELECTRIC
Ring Tony or Julie on
07974 428 603
KEEP IT LOCAL
'No Job Too Small'

Whitehouse Electrical & Sons
Professional and reliable service
• Complete Rewires
• Shower Installations
• Testing - Inspection
• Fuseboard Upgrades
• Domestic - Commercial
• Security Alarms
• Landlord Certs
FREE QUOTES - 24 HOUR CALLOUT
07766 105131
Florence Road, Tipton, DY4 0NR
www.whitehouseelectricalsons.co.uk
ELECSA Registered Company EPP31221
Part P Approved Installer

Driveways

Lawley & Son DRIVEWAYS
• Trees carefully pruned
• Specialist in maintenance free gardens
• Trimming
• Felling
• Turfing
• Pollarding
• Patios/Slabbing
• Block-paving specialists
• Drives
• Patios
• Paths Building work undertaken
• Tarmacing - Red or Black
Professional quality work at competitive prices
All work undertaken
15% OFF
CALL NOW FOR A FREE ESTIMATE
0121 574 3092 or 07957 368422 or 07376 612163

CREATIVE PRINTS
Pattern imprinted concrete specialists
Weed-free paving • No maintenance
Non-sinking • Block paving and Tarmac
Digger Grab Hire
Various patterns and colours available
Re-sealing service available
Free Quotes
Tel: 0121 574 0596
Mobile: 07967 657539

Handyman

The Handy and Odd Job Man
"For those little jobs that just need doing"
Special OAP Rates
No job too small
Not sure?
Just call and to save you cost I will call you back
07804 124 730

Electricians

REWIRING EXPERTS.co.uk
All domestic and commercial electrical works undertaken
Home rewiring from £800
For a high quality local service call:
0121 3690311
07939 503905

Local Specialists

Fencing

PJW FENCING
All types of fencing and gates supplied and fitted
Other services: Shed bases, slabbing and garden clearances, removal of trees, privet, old sheds and garages
QUALITY WORKMANSHIP AT COMPETITIVE PRICES • ALL AREAS COVERED
For a free quote call
0121 532 2263 or 07951 536929

Garage Doors

L M S GARAGE DOORS
All types of doors supplied and fitted
Fast low cost , same day repairs
For a free survey and quote call
0121 559 0455
07592 118707

Gardening

ROWAN
TREE AND GARDEN SERVICES
• Tree Surgeon Specialist • Jungles Cleared/Full Landscapes
• Hedges Pruned/Shaped • Stump Grinding/Root Removal
• Fencing • Turfing • Concreting • Driveways & Patios
• Plus Much More Call Now For a No Obligation quotation
WWW.ROWANGROUP.CO.UK
01384 213644 or 07733 226568
AGE CONCERN & Local Authority Contractor, N.P.T.C. qualified, Public Liability Insurance (£5 million)
All staff C.R.B. Certified

Sandwell Gardeners
✓ Lawn cutting regular or 1 off.
✓ Lawn weed & fee treatment
✓ New lawn laid
✓ Small/Medium hedges pruned
✓ Weeds sprayed on hard surfaces
✓ Overgrown gardens cleared.
✓ Fence panels & decking & shed painted
✓ Rubbish Removals
✓ Pressure washing driveways & patios
OAP DISCOUNT Wednesday & Friday
Mobile 07908 012267

To advertise your business and reach more than 61,597 potential customers...
1 Call us on... 01902 319590
2 E-mail us at... mark.moore@expressandstar.co.uk
3 Post to... Mark Moore, Sandwell Chronicle, Black Country House, Rounds Green Road, Oldbury B69 2DG

Local Specialists

Gardening

GARDEN FORCE
• SLABBING • FENCING • DECKING
• TURFING • JUNGLE CLEARANCE
• BLOCK PAVING • TREEWORK
• GARDEN MAKEOVERS
FREE ESTIMATES
CALL TODAY
07486 054067 / 0121 531 5122
HUGE DISCOUNTS ON ALL TREE WORK

PATS GARDENING SERVICES
All Gardening Work Undertaken
Tree Felling / Pruning
Garden Management
Fence Erection
Rubbish Removal
No Job Too Small : FREE Quotes
Phone Pat day or night on...
TEL: 0795 041 2361

T.L.S. Creative Gardening
• Block Paving • Slabbing • Brickwork
• Tongue & Groove Sheds • Fencing
• Turfing • Wrought Iron Gates & Fencing
For a *FREE* quote call:
0121-601-8034
07833-312-126
07906-867776
www.tlscreativegardens.co.uk

C&S Landscapes
TURF-SUPPLIED & LAID
OAP Discounts Available
- Fencing
- Turfing
- Slabbing
- Ornamental Gravel
- Driveways/Patios Cleaned
- Gardens Cleared

ALL AREAS COVERED
No Job Too Small
FREE ESTIMATES
Tel: 0121 531 6295 or 07866 623841

Plumbing

BLACK COUNTRY PLUMBING & TILING SERVICES
ALL GENERAL PLUMBING & TILING WORK UNDERTAKEN
HEATING, BATHROOMS, PLUMBING AND TILING
SPECIAL RATES FOR OAP'S
FREE QUOTATIONS
For more info call now on 0121 434 5679 / 07507 070786

HOUSEHOLD PLUMBING
(General Plumbing and Bathrooms)
iphe
All installations and repairs
Supply and fit or fit only
EST 1994
TIDY, MODERN APPROACH. REGISTERED PLUMBER
No job too small. Friendly service. Free advice and quotes
Tel: Neil 07968 786449 - 0121-602 6776
www.household-plumbing.co.uk

Plastering

C.A. Plastering
For competitive quotes on all your refurbishment needs on plastering, boarding, overboarding, partitions, re-skimming and artex covering.
No job too small
07538 718264

Plumbing & Heating

IJL GAS & PLUMBING SERVICES
INSTALL SERVICE & REPAIR
on all Boilers and Heating Systems
Bathrooms, Showers and all plumbing work
Over 25 years experience
Service and repair on Cookers and Fires
24 HOUR EMERGENCY CALL OUT
Landlord Certs and FREE Quotes
CALL IAN 07907 186028 / 0121 588 8414

P.S. Heating & Plumbing
Combi Boiler change from £950
Specialists in Biasi / Baxi / Worcester Bosch / Vaillant Boilers plus many more
SPECIAL OFFERS ON FULL HEATING SYSTEMS
NATURAL & LPG GAS
Fully Insured up to £2 million
Free Quotation
07961 140885
safe 301067

KEN BANNISTER
Plumbing and Heating
All Plumbing, Central Heating undertaken.
NO JOB TOO SMALL
Free estimate and advice
07964 997 845
0121 557 5958

Landscapers

CARDINAL LANDSCAPES
West Midlands
Specialists in Patios, Driveways, Paths, Fencing, Turfing, Decking and Landscaping
Call now for a FREE QUOTE
01902 562600 or 07539 887144

Skip Hire

RUSSELL SKIPS
MINI/MIDI SKIPS
(0121) 520 3388
07721 387990

MT SKIPS & GRAB HIRE
Save £££s
All size skips and all areas covered
Same day delivery faster than
A phone call!!!
Open 7 days a week
SCRAP CARS REMOVED FOR FREE
YOU FILL 'EM WE MT 'EM
07920 88 57 74 or 01384 24 09 56

Roofing

ALL WEATHER ROOFING
Slating, Tiling, New Roofs, Flat Roofs, Chimneys, Guttering, Ridges, Flashings, uPVC Fascia Cladding
FREE ESTIMATES • FAST RELIABLE SERVICE
Over 30 years experience
0121 420 1582
NO CALL OUT CHARGE
Mobile Number: 07947 839451
allweatherroofingwestmids.co.uk
allweatherroofinguk@outlook.com

Tom Corbett Roofing Services
Telephone: 0121 5800915 Mobile: 07931 344199
- Flat Roof Repaired or Renewed
- Slate & Tile Repairs
- Ridge, Hip & Chimney Repointing
- Gutter Replacement & Cleaning

30 YEARS' EXPERIENCE
FREE QUOTATIONS

A1 Little Job Man
(Part of the Imperial Residential Group)
Over 35 years experience
FMB
- Fast Roof Repairs • Felt Work & Guttering
- New Roofs Chimneys & Valleys
- uPVC Fascias & Guttering FREE Quotes
- All Building Work Undertaken
- All Work Guaranteed • All Areas Covered

0121 553 3020

ELITE PLASTICS
•Fascias •Sofits •Dry Verge
•Pointing •Gutter Cleaning And Repair
Premium Products Expertly Fitted With Full Manufacture Guarantee.
For A Free Quote call
01384 468831 / 07985 575865
www.eliteplasticsupvc.co.uk

Upholstery

RE-UPHOLSTERY SERVICES
Specialists in Re-upholstery, Repairs and Antiques
CONTRACT & DOMESTIC
No Job Too Small
FREE ESTIMATES
Choice of patterns | Quality Workmanship
SOFA WORKSHOP
Oldbury
Tel: 07816 818492 anytime
email: vince.gandley@yahoo.com

Property Maintenance

W.H. SERVICES PROPERTY MAINTENANCE
★ Fitted Kitchens ★ Damp Proofing
★ Fitted bathrooms ★ Tiling (wall and floor) ★ Flooring
★ Complete House Renovation
★ Flat Roofs ★ Plastering
★ Painting & Decorating
★ Plumbing / emergencies
★ Building work
All work guaranteed
For a FREE quote call Wayne on:
Tel: 0121 556 5294 Mobile: 07817 727261

Rubbish Removal

A.J.B. Waste Management
Try us for a FREE no obligation quotation
FOR A CHEAP RUBBISH REMOVAL 6 DAYS
Small jobs NOT A PROBLEM
We load, No Skips, Free quotation
GARDEN, HOUSEHOLD, SHED, GARAGE, WHITE GOODS, HOUSE CLEARANCES FURNITURE.
You can also bring your own waste to our fully licensed transfer station
CALL TODAY AND LETS TALK RUBBISH
Tel 0121 520 7731

ROB'S RUBBISH
EST. SINCE 1992
A CHEAP RUBBISH REMOVAL 7 DAYS
Small Jobs NO PROBLEM
We load, No Skips, Free Estimates
Garden, Household, Shed, Garage, Fridges, White Goods, House Clearances, Furniture
0121 500 6033
07938 207122

ALWAYS V.S.K. RUBBISH REMOVAL
Household Waste, Shed & Garage Clearance
House & Garden Clearance
Tree Felling, Also Conifers Lopped
0121-532 2392
FREE QUOTES
West Bromwich

Local Specialists
Our Specialist Section offers you a wide range of local businesses and tradesman to deal with your needs and requirements.

Local Specialists
Our Specialist Section offers you a wide range of local businesses and tradesman to deal with your needs and requirements.

To advertise your business and reach more than 61,597 potential customers...
1 Call us on... 01902 319590
2 E-mail us at... mark.moore@expressandstar.co.uk
3 Post to... Mark Moore, Sandwell Chronicle, Black Country House, Rounds Green Road, Oldbury B69 2DG

Classified Ads

Buy Local, **Sell** Local

Funeral Directors

Turn To Us For Help and Support

In your time of need we'll take care of all the funeral arrangements.

- Est. 1907
- 24 hour service

G. Gibbs
Funeral Directors

44 All Saints Way
West Bromwich B71 1PZ
0121 553 0442

Dignity CARING FUNERAL SERVICES

Part of Dignity plc. A British Company.

1 Family

Elderly & Disabled

MOBILITY EQUIPMENT REPAIRS Stairlifts, Scooters, Wheelchairs and Batteries: Call 0121 522 3311.

MOBILITY SCOOTER
Rascal 388xl fast 6mph scooter, immaculate , 20 mile range, 21 stone capacity, pneumatic tyres, full lighting kit, Free delivery & warranty
£795
07718 089131

2 Leisure Time

Bikes

CALIBRE ACHIEVE 18 gear road bike with lights cost £525, hardly used, sell £295 ono. 07891 664589.

Caravans Wanted

All Caravans Wanted
Any Age or Condition
CASH * WAITING
Immediate collection
Call Bill on 07825 325 913

Caravans/ Motorhomes

CARAVAN for sale, North Wales, must go, fees paid till 2019. Quick sale, mint condition. 07590 124226.

DOREMA GARDA AWNING charcoal and grey, 270 XL, size 15, glass fibre frame, with carpet to fit, only used twice.
£450 ono.
Call Phil 07766 830949

MONZA 2 BERTH caravan, fully equiped and complete with awning, as new condition, £1195 ono. Stonecross area. 0121 5884371.

WESTFIELD AIR AWNING, £550 o.n.o. Bailey wheel lock, £50. Towing mirrors, £10. Caravan steps, £10. 0121 532 4110.

FOLDING CARAVAN
Two berth Gobur van, all weather, fully insulated, under floor heating, hot and cold water, 12V wheel drivers, spare wheel, hook up 240V, toilet room, porch awning, easy to erect and tow.
£2,500
07886 958972.

Holiday Home for Sale - 2014
Willerby Vacation 2 bed, 6 berth pre-loved £16,995
On a Superb family friendly 5 star park with outstanding facilities Nr Welshpool.
www.gwernyddhall.co.uk
Call Steve or Rob
01686 650236.

HOLIDAY HOME FOR SALE
2012 ABI Ambleside 2 bedroom luxurious and spacious model £33,995 on an immaculate & family friendly 5 star park in the breath taking location of historic Harlech with spectacular beaches, castle and golf course minutes away
www.minydonpark.co.uk
call Jayne or Carl 01766 780286

TWIN AXLE 21FT
2010 ELDDIS CRUSADER SUPER CYCLONE
4 berth, twin fixed beds. Top of the range, lovely caravan.
£10,500.
07454 449272.

Self Catering Holidays

BUDE CORNWALL 2 BED CHALET sleeps 4 - 6, On 4* woodland site, pool & free entertainment. May, June, Sep £130pw, July, £180pw, school Holidays £395pw. 07974 226928.

BURNHAM-ON-SEA
Self Catering Holiday Apartments
Disabled Facilities
Pet Friendly
01278 794111
www.GoSomerset.co.uk

Travel Abroad

READERS ARE REMINDED to check with any Advertisers that their holiday costs are fully covered by a recognised bonding or insurance scheme.

Yorkshire

YORKSHIRE DALES
Meadow Holidays
Country Cottages / Suites in Wensleydale
" Weeks from £209 per couple
" Weekends just £99 per couple
Families Welcome
Walk in scenic countryside by waterfalls or visit historic market towns with friendly Inns
Brochure (24hrs) 01969 624145
email: rita@meadowholidays.com
www.meadowholidays.com

mind, body & soul

Massage

Mobile deep tissue aromatherapy massage treatment by qualified therapist
By appointment **07437 569187**

Sports & Leisure

FreeAds
IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY
To sell items upto £250.
Online at
bookanad.
expressandstar.co.uk

what's on

Auctions

ANTIQUE / COLLECTABLES AUCTION
CALFHEATH VILLAGE HALL, CALFHEATH, CANNOCK, WV10 7DW
MONDAY 23RD APRIL
AUCTION STARTS 6PM - VIEWING 4.30PM
07775 951464

3 Home & Services

Furniture

BEDROOM FURNITURE
Retro. H/board with b/s tables attached (2 drawers), dressing table inc 3 mirrors (6 drawers) and stool, 3 drawer unit. linen chest, immaculate condition, cannot deliver. **£450.**
01889 574079.

FURNITURE NOT SOLD? Donate it to Katarine House Hospice. We collect for free. Telephone Cannock 01543 466885, Stafford 01785 247630, House clearance service 01785 760715.

Furniture not sold, why not donate it?
katharine house hospice
Reg charity number: 1011712
We can turn your quality used furniture into 1st class care for patients at Katharine House
Call us now on 01785 760715
for details or to arrange a FREE collection

Household Appliances

A MUST CLEAR FOR NEW STOCK
AUTOS FROM £89, COOKERS, FIRES, FRIDGE FREEZERS, ALL DOMESTIC APPLIANCES AT SALE PRICE!
Past & Present
24 - 26 church street, Bilston (opposite town hall).
01902 403770

In Your Garden

6x5 Lap Panels
£17 each (inc vat)
WS3 2BQ
Bloxwich Fencing Ltd
or 01922 712184

GLASS TOPPED garden table and chairs, as new. £50. 01889 582992.

BLOXWICH FENCING
Supply and Fit or DIY
Credit cards taken • Free quotes WS3 2BQ
01922 712184

C B SHEDS & FENCING
We supply & fit. Free quotes.
Call: 01922 720270
We also supply sleepers and decking

SHEDS NOW
Quality Garden Buildings
Made to Measure at Competitive prices
Sheds * Summerhouses * Planters * Arbours and more..
Now at Swan Pit, Gnosall, Stafford ST20 0EE
www.sheedsnow.co.uk
0800 698 0093

Items For Sale

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED
That the Business Advertisements(Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

ASH RECLAMATION new and used building materials, upvc doors and windows 01543 453222.

CORRUGATED GALVANISED Sheets. New, £8 can deliver. Also box profile and PVC/polycarb. David Broxton on 07834 489558.

ASH RECLAMATION
All reclaimed building materials
UPVC doors and windows
New and Used
Gatehouse Trading Est.
Lichfield Road, Brownhills, WS8 6JZ
01543 453222
07956 627367

A GENUINE LADY BUYER
PAYS TOP CASH ON ANY TYPE OF GOLD
Any type of gold wanted, e.g 9 carat gold. Jewellery from £300+ per oz. Any amount collected. Gold coins, silver, medals, bank notes, oriental items, anytging old, interesting or collectable
Call Pauline on
01922 495066
or 07971 783206

PORTABLE AIR CONDITIONING unit, as new, can deliver, £80. 01889 582992.

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

Items Wanted

OMEGA WATCHES
Wanted by collector, any condition considered, top prices paid, please
Call Ken anytime on 07984 047597.

READERS ARE ADVISED to carefully consider all of their options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.

WANTED
VINTAGE TOYS
Star Wars, He-Man, Ghost Busters, Ninja Turtles, Corgi or Dinky.
All vintage toys considered.
Good prices paid.
Unleash the cash in your loft.
Call Tony on 07812 903338.

Loans

READERS ARE REMINDED that they may require professional advice before entering into obligations.

PC's, Laptops & Accessories

CLIENT COMPUTERS Certified technician and microsoft partner. Repair and maintain laptops and pcs. Virus removal, broken screens, wifi, windows problem etc. Laptops available. 0121 556 9481

CLIENT COMPUTERS
Certified technician & Microsoft partner.
Repair & maintain laptops and PCs. In West Midlands.
Virus removal, broken screens, wifi.
Windows problems etc.
Home visits or bring to me.
Long established.
Laptops available.
0121 556 9481

specialists at your service

Aerials

AA DIGITAL AERIALS
AERIALS FITTED FROM £79.99
01902 858191 • 01384 429166
01543 439095 • 01922 716029

A AERIAL AND SKY SPECIALIST Digital aerials, CCTV cameras, TV wall mount fitted. 07850 330251.

CLASSIFIEDS "JUST WHAT I NEEDED"

"I am very pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising Contract"
Steve - AA Digital Aerials

For great business results call
01902 319 191
ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by **Express & Star**

Alarms/Security

PREMIER ALARMS
Supplied and Fitted £249
Servicing and Repairs
12 Months Warranty
All areas covered
All quotes beaten!
Call: 0121 601 9791

Bathrooms

BATHROOM DESIGN All bathrooms fitted, tiling, flooring, complete bathrooms: 07850 382548.

COMPLETE BATHROOMS Bathroom design and fitting, flooring, tiling and more, call 07497 826697.

Building Services

DAVIES & SON BUILDERS
All Building & Roofing Work
Driveways, Landscaping
Over 40 year exp | All work guaranteed
Free Quotes: 07837 994465
01902 579 592

Building Supplies

RECLAIMED BRICKS, Tiles, Slates, Oakbeams, Flooring, York Stone. Cawarden 01889 574066. sales@cawardenreclaim.co.uk

Carpentry & Joinery

SPR CARPENTRY Six internal pre-primed doors fully fitted from £370. 0121 5322672 or 07958 552625.

Carpet Fitters

A CARPETS & VINYLS supplied or just fitted, quality samples brought to your home, no job too small, free quotes call Mark 01543 820598 / 07941 619694.

Garage Conversions

ALL GARAGE CONVERSIONS CATERED FOR OAP discounts, Free quotes call 07522 643706

Driveways & Patios

P.W DRIVEWAYS
The Block Paving Specialists. Patios, Driveways, Pathways, Landscaping & more.
Special Offer £50 PSM
We will beat any like for like written quote
Free Quotes & Advice
01785 609076
(Based in Stafford)

Fencing

PORTWAY FENCING
SPECIAL OFFER
10 Bays of quality fencing, concrete posts, gravel boards ***£795***
Heavy duty panels supplied & fitted.
0121 531 5250 / 07866 137 656
Mon - Fri 8am - 4.30pm
Sat 8am - 12noon
83 Portway Rd, W'bury
DELIVERY AVAILABLE
www.portwayfencing.co.uk

CLASSIFIEDS "JUST WHAT I NEEDED"

"I am extremely happy with the service I get from my Express & Star Classified Sales Representatives and would recommend them to anyone! They have done a very professional job with my website so I get online enquiries as well now."
Michael- Portway Fencing

For great business results call
01902 319 191
ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by **Express & Star**

Gates

ALL METAL GATES,RAILINGS, etc. Free quotes, also repairs & fitting. 07903 500642 24 hours.

DARLASTON FABS 30 years exp in supplying/ fitting gates and railings. Free quotes: 07497 667752.

Gardening Services

H. COOPER & SON Landscaping / garden maintenance. No job too small, Free Quotes: 07904 929632.

Landywood Tree & Landscaping Services
All garden work, tree felling/lopping, pruning, hedges trimmed, turf, patios, fencing, block-paving etc.
www.landywoodlandscaping.co.uk
01922 898 710 / 07973 177 976

Express & Star
LANDSCAPE GARDENERS!
CLAIM YOUR FREE ADVERT
(T&Cs Apply)
Call Claire Smith: 01902 319661
claire.smith@expressandstar.co.uk

Gas Fitting

GAS SERVICES
- Boilers • Cookers
- Fires • Gas Checks
- Landlord Certificates
- Gas Leaks Traced

Fitted, Serviced and Repaired
Same Day Service
Free Quotes
DISCOUNTS FOR OAPs
Call: 01902 366855/ 07761 973975

READERS ARE ADVISED To check that anyone carrying out any Gas work is Gas Safe Registered.

It is an offence under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 to carry out gas work in the UK without being on the Gas Safe Register.

Handyman Services

HANDY MAN - All trades, washing machines, outside taps, showers, plumbing, heating, decorating & more. Free quotes: 07497 826697.

YOUR LOCAL HANDYMAN
FREE QUOTES
All work guaranteed, Most trades covered, References available on request. No job too big or too small!
CALL MIKE: 07947 621047
0121 6010479

Home Improvements

COOKS DECORATORS Friendly & reliable company, 15 years experience, private and commercial work. Call for a free quote 07708 380791

House Clearances

A1 HOUSE CLEARANCE
Full, part and single rubbish removed.
Garage and sheds cleared.
Leather 3 piece suites and leather chesterfields wanted.
01922 492007

A1 HOUSE CLEARANCE
Full, part and single rubbish removed.
Garage and sheds cleared.
Leather 3 piece suites and leather chesterfields wanted.
01922 492007

A ABSOLUTE BEST cash price paid for house clearances and bereavements. Also removals undertaken. **07852 172641 / 07710 360327 / 01902 534021**

ALL ROUND CLEARANCE
Professional family run business
House clearances full or part, also garages, sheds etc.
Telephone Kev
07794 912844

Kitchen Fitters

THE KITCHEN FITTER Over 20 years experience. Call 07881 654757 or 01543 373233.

Lock Services

LOCKRITE local father and daughter locksmiths, lock-outs, broken locks, UPVC specialist, 24hr service. 01922 780078.

Plans Prepared

ADAM DESIGN. Building Plans. Drawn and submitted to council. Tel: 01902 620200 / 07841 654037. Email: adamdesign@sky.com

Plastering

MINT PLASTERING
For the very best in plastering and rendering, full rooms inc materials from 110. Halls, stairs and landings from 200
30 years experience.
Free quotes. All work guaranteed
01543 327130 / 07519 694516

MINT PLASTERING & rendering 30 yrs exp. All work guaranteed. 01543 327130 or 07519 694516.

STEVES PLASTERING SERVICE Clean and Reliable, All Work Undertaken, All Areas. Call 0121 567 5919 / 07977 262943.

Plumbing & Heating

A.A HEATING & PLUMBING All gas work. Install/ Service/ Repair. Free quotes call: 07540 950588.

ALL PLUMBING WORK UNDERTAKEN
No job too large. All work guaranteed.
Call Will for a free quote
07521 411108

Keiron Jones Plumbing & Heating
Full heating systems £2200
Boiler Changes £1100
Longer warranty available upon request, fires and surrounds also available.
For Free Quotes Call:
01902 403823 07811 855231

PLUMBING WORK UNDERTAKEN No job too small or large. Call Will for a free quote on: 07521 411108.

Removals

CALL DEAN NOW: For all your Removal needs. 07429 453209/ 01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

KT HOUSE REMOVALS
12 years experience.
SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL LOADS.
LOCAL OR DISTANCE. FULLY INSURED.
Free Quotes - Call Ric on:
07771 727119

KC REMOVALS We beat any quote, full or part loads, all areas. Anything considered. Call on 07867 862227.

KT REMOVALS 12 yrs exp. Single items to full load removals. Local / distance. Call Ric: 07771 727119.

Roofing

MG ROOFING
Flat Roofing, Tiling, Roof Repairs, Fascias and Gutters.
Call 01902 238989 / 07580 465449.
www.mgroofingwestmidlands.co.uk

Rubbish Removal

LETS TALK RUBBISH No Skips Needed.Load/Remove any Waste, House Clearance. 07969 628382

Skip Hire

A absolute affordable skip
RUSSELL SKIPS
Mini, midi skips
Prompt delivery / collection
(0121) 520 3388 / 07721 387990

GOLDSHILL SKIP & SELF DELIVERIES
BRING YOUR WASTE TO US
(any size vehicle)
General, green, wood (can work out cheaper than a skip)
OR
HIRE A SKIP FROM US -
Phone for prices
0121 557 3346
82 Pikehelve Street, West Bromwich, B70 0TU

STONES SKIP HIRE 0121 557 1480 / 07886 721875 www.stonesskiphire.co.uk

Upholstery

MR B'S UPHOLSTERY
RE- UPHOLSTERING OF SOFA'S, DINING FURNITURE, CARAVANS, CAR RETRIMS AND MORE.
www.mrbsupholstery.co.uk
01543 500677 07738 851601

t.v. / home entertainment

Service

AERIAL AND TV SPECIALIST Any TV Repairs. Digital aerials, sky, CCTV cameras. TV wall mounts and TV set ups. 07850 330251.

CLASSIFIEDS "JUST WHAT I NEEDED"

"TV Link are really pleased with their response from their Classified Campaign"
Bill - TV Link

For great business results call
01902 319 191
ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by Express & Star

4 Pets & Animals

Equestrian Corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses, Donkeys or Ponies have the required Passport information, this is a legal requirement.

Pets Corner

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:
1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.
Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

Guns & Dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

5 Business & Farming

Commercial Premises

UNITS AND OFFICE SPACE to let in Oldbury, West Bromwich and Walsall. Easy Terms. Ashmore Properties 0121 520 5318.

6 Property

Accommodation To Let

NOTICE TO READERS
It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments/contracts.

CANNOCK Mobile home , one bed, CH, DG, 6 months minimum rent, over 50's only £130. 07512 347004.

FURNISHED Studio Flat, Cannock, own bathroom, parking, laundrette, bills inclusive, deposit/ emoyers refs required. 01543 279435.

J9 Accommodation
NO DEPOSIT
★MOVE IN TODAY★
Studios *from* **£90pw***
Rooms *from* **£65pw***
*Includes Most Bills
CHECK WEBSITE FOR LIVE LIST
Midland Landlord Accreditation Scheme
01902 213121
J9accommodation.com

NO DEPOSIT, NO PROBLEM - MOVE IN TODAY, Secure, modern Studio & 1 Bed Flats, West Brom High Street. Low rents DSS 35 + welcome. Call 07967 016425.

ONE BED FLAT WILLENHALL Town Centre. New kitchen / bathroom. £100pwk. Deposit required. No texts. 07976 781003.

Houses for sale

LOOK

WEDNESBURY
2 bedroom semi detached house, lounge, kitchen/diner, fully enclosed garden, full D/G, gas C/H, all furniture included, quick sale required, cash offers.
£110,000 ono.
07774 526286.

Overseas Property

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

Properties Wanted

Home Cash Buyer
Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish
£££ RENT BACK OPTIONS £££
Houses / Land Required
We also buy Commercial Property
Ring Paul 24/7 Local 07870 341 089
Sandwell area: Call 0121 696 4154
Walsall & Cannock area: Call 01922 432049
Wolverhampton: Call 01902 489901
www.homecashbuyer.co.uk

Yes! HOMEBUYERS
We will buy your house fast!
Free Valuation? Yes! Any House? Yes!
Fast Sale? Yes! Any Location? Yes!
No Fees? Yes! Any Condition? Yes!
FREE, GUARANTEED, instant offer today!
Call 0121 663 1797
or text "Cash" to 66777
yeshomebuyers.com

7 Jobs

Office & Secretarial

LEGAL SECRETARY required for West Bromwich Solicitors, commercial conveyancing experience essential. CVs to sharon.millward@cbtcsolicitors.co.uk

8 Motoring

Cars Over £1500

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

PRESTIGE

BMW 316i SE
Auto, Silver, 52 plate, leather interior, FSH, 36,000 genuine miles.
One owner.
£2,500
01543 451892 / 07950 925798.

FIAT 500 DIESEL BY DESIGN (model not fuel)
2011, 55,600 miles, Diesel green metallic, EW, stop/start, AC, Bluetooth, usb, glass roof, CD player, CL, MOT, 1 previous owner, alloys, tinted rear windows, spare wheel, tool kit, fsh.
£4,600 o.n.o
07918 621300 (no text)

BUY LOCAL SELL LOCAL
01902 317878
ClassifiedAds

Cars Over £1500

FORD B-MAX
16 plate, 10,000 miles, 1388 engine, silver, petrol, one owner from new, black, alloys.
Immaculate condition.
£8,900
07788 684373.

NISSAN JUKE ACENTA
2011, 22,000 miles, Premium, 2 owners from new, main dealer service. All electrics, Sat Nav plus reverse camera. Unmarked alloys, MoT till end Sept 2018.
£6,600 ono.
07907 636212.

1ST TO SEE WILL BUY

PEUGEOT CONVERTIBLE
Silver, 2007, 2 ltr automatic with hard top.
Mot Oct 18, c/w alloys.
46,000 miles, very good runner. A Bargain.
£2,000 ono
01543 573145
07972 002617.

Cars Under £1500

DIESEL

KIA CARENS
54 plate,
2.0 diesel,
manual, 5 seater,
AC, parking sensors,
all electric windows,
one owner, fsh,
71k, MoT September.
£950 o.n.o.
07956 134518.

PEUGEOT 307
2007, 67,000 miles, black, electric windows, air bag, electric mirrors, air con, long MoT, metallic paint, central locking, pas, alloys, CD.
£1,100 ono.
07812 248314.

BARGAIN

SUZUKI WAGON R
04 reg, MoT, 1200cc, 5 dr, high MPG, drives great, economicle.
£795.
07480 810850.

Scrap Vehicles

ABC AUTO SALVAGE WANTED URGENT
Scrap & MOT Failures Best Prices Paid ELV Registered Spares Always Available
0121 557 0800 or 0121 557 0400.
Oldbury Area.

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

Vehicles Wanted

CROWN MOTORS
Guaranteed best price for your unwanted cars and vans
07903 549849
buyer will call

9 Local Information

Public Notices

PUBLIC & LEGAL NOTICES
For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to Marie Hogg on **01902 319694** or email **marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk**
(remember to include a name/ contact number for confirmation of receipt)

Final whistle
GO AL
THE ONLY READ FOR REAL FANS EVERY MONDAY
Part of Express & Star Ltd Express & Star

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regeneration and Planning
Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015

I hereby give notice that Sandwell Council has received the following applications under the planning acts which it is required to give public notice for the reason given at the beginning of each group of applications.

This is a Listed Building Consent application.

DC/18/61684	Mr Mark Miles West Bromwich Albion FC	Greggs Bakery Ltd 2 Birmingham Road West Bromwich B71 4JZ	Proposed relocation of walls and brick piers to allow a clear pathway of 1.5m.

The proposed development does not accord with the provisions of the Development Plan in force in the area in which it is situated.

DC/18/61566	SMBC Homes And Communities – Alan Martin	Land At Strathmore Road, Kingsbury Road, Sandgate Road, Ridgeway Road & Henn Street, Tipton	Proposed construction of 63 new dwellings comprising of: 46 no. 2 bed houses, 11 no. 3 bed houses and 6 no. 4 bed houses.

Members of the public may inspect copies of these applications at Council House, Freeth Street, Oldbury, West Midlands, B69 3DE (between 8.45a.m. and 5.30p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 9.00a.m. and 5.30p.m. Wednesday and 8.45a.m. to 5p.m. Friday) or via the Council's Public Access website (www.sandwell.gov.uk).

Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications can do so via the website, or should write to the Council at the above address within 21 days (and 21 days for Listed Building or Conservation Area consent) of the date of this advertisement quoting the application reference number.

MR JAN BRITTON, Chief Executive

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Springfield Lane, Rowley Regis) (Temporary Road Closures) Order 2018, has made an Order to temporarily prohibit any vehicle from proceeding via Springfield Lane, Rowley Regis (Windmill End – Bridge Field Walk). Traffic will be diverted via Vale Road, Darby End Road, St Peter's Road, Buffery Road, New Rowley Road, Dudley Road and vice-versa. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 25/05/18 effective from 23/04/18. Purpose – the installation of drainage apparatus at Bullfield Bridge over the Dudley Canal by Stave-Con.

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Charles Street and Ryder Street, West Bromwich) (Temporary Road Closures) Order 2018, has made an Order to temporarily prohibit any vehicle from proceeding via the following roads in West Bromwich: it is anticipated that the roads will be closed as follows: **Charles Street (Great Bridge Street – William Street)** – anticipated dates 23/04/18 - 25/06/18. Traffic will be diverted via Great Bridge Street, Phoenix Street, Charles Street and vice-versa. **Ryder Street (Great Bridge Street – William Street)** – anticipated dates 09/07/18 - 10/08/18. Traffic will be diverted via William Street, Charles Street, Great Bridge Street and vice-versa. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work necessitating the road closures is expected to be completed by 10/08/18 effective from 23/04/18. Purpose – gas main renewal scheme by Balfour Beatty for Cadent Gas Ltd.

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Langley Green Level Crossing, Crosswells Road, Oldbury) (Temporary Road Closure No.2) Order 2018 has made an Order to temporarily prohibit any vehicles from proceeding along Crosswells Road, Oldbury between Western Road and Thompson Road. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 22/04/18 (10.00hrs) effective from 21/04/18 (18.00hrs). Traffic will be diverted via Western Road, Tat Bank Road, Vicarage Road and vice-versa. Purpose – work to signalling equipment on level crossing barriers by Network Rail.

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Friar Street, Wednesbury) (Temporary Road Closure) Order 2018, intends to temporarily prohibit any vehicle from proceeding via Friar Street, Wednesbury (Crankhall Lane – Brookside). The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 14/05/18, effective from 30/04/18. A diversion route will be signed for traffic via Elwell Street, Alma Street, Oxford Street, Paul Street, Hydes Road, Walsall Street, Wood Green Road, Woden Road East, Crankhall Lane and vice-versa. Purpose – works to repair sewer by Amey for Severn Trent Water.

10 Personals

Personal

AT MANYANA Gentlemans Club, 5*. 0121 472 7281. www.manyana massageparlour.co.uk

Angels
The largest adult superstore in the Midlands
• Adult Toys • Sexy Lingerie
Unit 5 Frederick Street, Walsall WS2 9NE
01922 635544

★★★
SEARCHING FOR B DICKINSON
Was a Welder at Birmingham Burner Middlemore Lane, Aldridge, Walsall.
Please get in touch with Edith from Pelsall.
Box Number P21142 , Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

SELL IT FAST SELL IT LOCAL
01902 317878
ClassifiedAds

SELL YOUR UNWANTED ITEMS FOR
ONLY £9.99
** Cheaper than ebay!

FOR 6 NIGHTS IN PRINT AND ONLINE IN YOUR LOCAL EXPRESS & STAR.
✔ No hidden costs
✔ Buyer collects
✔ No postage or returns
✔ Local sellers to local people
✔ It's that simple!!
Call us on 01902 317878
or book online at bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk
Private advertisers only
No pets, livestock, property or personals
**Ebay price checked 2/1/18
ClassifiedAds

The ASA regulates ads on websites.
#socialmediatoo
ASA.org.uk
Advertising Standards Authority

Every millimetre counts in the new Lexus RX L

The first seven-seat version of the RX luxury SUV, the new Lexus RX L

Sometimes it only takes a small change to make a big difference. That's how Lexus has succeeded in designing its first seven-seat version of the RX luxury SUV, the new Lexus RX L.

Focusing on small but crucial details, Lexus has created an impressive new member of the RX family, adding more seats to the cabin yet maintaining all of the comfort, convenience and quality that are true to the brand's omotenashi principles of hospitality.

The new model is now available to order in the UK, with customer deliveries commencing mid-May.

Inside the RX L there are two extra seats, generous knee and headroom and plenty of space for luggage. But on the outside, the car is only 110mm longer than the five-seat model – barely the width of a hand. In fact, it's by adding those few extra millimetres that Lexus has gone further than most of its competitors, in effect creating a new body for the RX, rather than trying to squeeze more seats into its existing model.

At first glance, there's no mistaking that this is an RX, with elegant and incisive styling that make it of the best-looking models in its class. Designers were clear that the RX's coupe-like profile had to be preserved. But look closely and you will see that not only is the RX L longer at the rear, the angle of its tailgate is slightly steeper. That fine adjustment makes sure there's comfortable headroom for all in the third row of seats.

Even more valuable millimetres have been gained simply by moving the rear wiper mechanism from the top to the bottom of the window. Open the door and you will see just how smart a solution Lexus has come up with to provide a third row of seats and a lay-out that's easy to adapt when you need more space for luggage. Raise the seats, or stow one or both of them flat: it just takes the press of a button.

Britannia Motors

59 **FORD MONDEO ZETEC 2.0 TDCi** Met Blue, Alloys, PAS, EW, AC £3499
09 **VAUXHALL MERIVA 1.4 ACTIVE** Met Grey, PAS, EW, AC, CD £2699
10 **RENAULT CLIO 1.2 MUSIC** Silver, 3 door, Alloys, PAS, CD, AC £2799
60 **CHEVROLET SPARK 1.2** White, Full Body Kit, Alloys, PAS, CD, AC £2999
07 **RENAULT MEGANE SCENIC 1.5** Diesel, Met Gold, Alloys, PAS, EW, AC £1999
08 **VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.9** Diesel, 7 Seats, Met Grey, PAS, AC, EW £2999
10 **PEUGEOT 207 VERVE 1.4** Silver, 5 door, Alloys, PAS, EW, AC £2999
08 **VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2** 5 Door, Silver, Power Steering, Elec Windows, CD Player, Air Conditioning £2799
07 **RENAULT MEGANE CONVERTIBLE** Met Grey, Alloys, PAS, EW, CD, AC £1999
07 **FORD FIESTA 1.4 TDCi STYLE** 5 Door, Blue, Power Steering, Elec Windows, CD Player, Air Conditioning £2299
04 **LANDROVER FREELANDER 1.8** Silver, ½ Black Leather, Alloys £2499
56 **SUZUKI GRAND VITARA 1.6** 3 door, Met Grey, PAS, EW, CD, AC £2999

FOR FULL DETAILS AND PHOTOS VIEW ALL OUR VEHICLES ON
www.britanniamotor.co.uk

Powke Lane, Rowley Regis B65 0AH
0121 561 5588
Debit and credit cards accepted
CARS WANTED FOR CASH

DUDLEY MOTOR COMPANY

DUDLEY'S MAIN VAUXHALL DEALER

NEW-USED CARS, SERVICE & PARTS FACILITIES

ALL CARS GUARANTEED, ALL CARS SERVICED AND MOT'D IF REQUIRED FINANCE AVAILABLE (SUBJECT TO STATUS)

REMEMBER TO BRING THIS ADVERT IN FOR AN EXTRA £100 OFF (T's & C's Apply)

2012/62 CHEVROLET ORLANDO LS
5-dr MPV, Grey, 43,074 miles
£6,995

2016/16 PEUGEOT 208 1.6 THP GTi PRESTIGE
3-dr, Red, 13,500 miles
£13,750

2014/63 SKODA CITIGO 1.0 MPI SE ASG
3-dr Auto, Deep Black, 31,950 miles
£6,495

2010/10 MAZDA MX-5 1.8iSE
2-dr Convertible, Black, 49,000 miles
£7,750

2010/60 SEAT IBIZA 1.4 SPORT
3-dr, Orange, 48,828 miles
£4,995

2017/17 VAUXHALL INSIGNIA 1.5T SRi
5-dr, Grey, 2,513 miles
£17,250

2015/65 VOLKSWAGEN AMAROK ATACAMA TDI 4MOTIO
Black, 25,700 miles
£20,995+VAT

2015/65 PEUGEOT 108 1.0 ACTIVE
3-dr, Black, 16,805 miles
£7,995

2012/62 LAND ROVER RANGE ROVER EVOQUE 2.2 eD4 PURE
5-dr Estate, 2WD, White, Full Leather, 38,800 miles
£18,995

2008/58 BMW 6 SERIES 635d SPORT
2-dr Convertible, Auto, Grey, 62,212 miles
£13,495

2011/61 NISSAN MICRA 1.2 VISIA
5-dr, Universal Silver, 55,603 miles
£4,495

2012/12 BMW X3 XDRIVE 2.0D SE 5-dr Estate, White, 46,000 miles £14,995
2009/59 BMW 6 SERIES 635d SPORT 2-dr Convertible, Auto, Grey, 62,212 miles £13,495
2015/65 ABARTH 595 1.4 T-JET TURISMO 3-dr, Grey & Red, 10,500 miles £11,695
2010/10 BMW X1 XDRIVE 2.0d SE 5-dr Step Auto, Brown, 42,266 miles £10,995
2015/65 VAUXHALL MOKKA 1.6i EXCLUSIV 5-dr, Black, 35,700 miles £10,750
2015/15 VAUXHALL ANTARA 2.2 CDTi EXCLUSIV (2WD) 5-dr, Black, 27,700 miles £9,995
2013/63 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.6 (117) VISIA 5-dr, White, 14,000 miles £9,995
2017/17 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.3 CDTi 16V VAN START/STOP Silver, Only 5 miles ..... £9,495 + VAT
2015/15 VAUXHALL ASTRA GTC 1.4T 16V SPORT 3-dr, Red, 35,000 miles £8,995
2015/65 VAUXHALL ADAM 1.2i ROCKS AIR 3-dr, Blue, 17,800 miles £8,995
2015/15 VAUXHALL CORSA1.4 SRi VX-LINE 3-dr, Green, 16,000 miles £8,750
2015/64 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.6T 16V VXR 3-dr, White, 28,000 miles £8,750
2014/14 VAUXHALL ASTRA 2.0 CDTi 16V ECOFLEX ELITE (165) 5-dr, Silver, 23,000 miles £8,495
2013/13 MINI ROADSTER 1.6 COOPER 2-dr Convertible, Black, 59,800 miles £7,995
2010/10 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.6T VXR LIMITED EDITION 3-dr, Red, 57,000 miles £7,750
2010/10 RENAULT MEGANE 1.5 DCi 106 DYNAMIQUE TOMTOM 3-dr, Cayenne Orange, 46,589 miles £4,995
2005/55 LAND ROVER FREELANDER 1.8 XEI STATION WAGON 5-dr, Zambezi Silver, 47,922 miles £4,495

DUDLEY MOTOR COMPANY

TRINDLE ROAD, DUDLEY, DY2 7AY (Between Cousins and Dudley Zoo)

01384 454100 www.dudleymotorco.co.uk

Sandwell Chronicle Thursday, April 19, 2018

It has sleek, stylish lines with a long bonnet

No pain here, this Stinger is a delight and pacey performer

By Carmel Stewart

Even with the most awesome crystal ball, could anyone have predicted that Kia would be the company to launch a super-duper streamlined, stylish, performance GT?

A Grand Tourer to challenge all premium contenders, the Stinger adds another dimension to the Kia line-up – a line-up which has been transformed over the past decade.

This latest delight owes much to Kia's strong design and engineering team with Peter Schreyer at the helm and Albert Bierman, formerly of BMW, the high-performance expert.

Six years in the making, it's been tested in Europe, Asia, the Middle East and America – north and south. It has sleek, stylish lines with a long bonnet, high waist and low air intakes either side, ensuring the rear-wheel drive Stinger looks every inch the part.

It comes with the choice of three engines and three trims. The GT-Line and GT-Line S are powered by either a 2.0 litre 244bhp petrol engine or a 2.2litre 197bhp diesel while the range-topping GT S is sold exclusively with a 3.3litre 365bhp twin-turbo V6. All are turbo-charged, direct injection and all are mated to an eight-speed auto transmission.

The rear wheel Stinger looks the part

With that amount of power, the performance starts are bound to be impressive – 0-60pmph in less than five seconds for the 3.3litre V6 and on to a top speed of 168mph. The 2.0litre petrol unit tested zaps from a standing start to 60mph in less than six seconds and has an average fuel economy of 35.8mpg which works out at more than 450miles between fuel stops.

On the road, the Stinger is a delight, with rock solid road holding, precise, well-weighted steering, impressively effective brakes and a suspension set-up which absorbs all but the most unkempt town centre surfaces.

Regardless of engine size, the Stinger is a pacey performer with the smooth automatic gearing keeping well up with the action.

Through the drive mode selector, drivers can choose one of five different set-ups adjusting shift and throttle programmes. Opt for the top GT S spec and dynamic stability damping control is added to the list of driver selectable changes – normal, sport and comfort.

Inside, the cabin is more spacious than you might expect. The low driving seat is easily adjustable thanks to the standard electric set-up. The rear has seat belts for three but two would be more comfortable and your own hips are preferable given the low-slung position and high transmission tunnel.

In addition, the outer two are heated on some specs – so welcome on cold winter mornings.

The boot, at 406litres, is far more spacious than the car design would suggest.

Keeping in touch requirements are taken care of via Bluetooth plus Apple Car Play and Android Auto whereby your phone is synced with the car's connectivity set up.

The standard eight-inch touch screen has full European mapping and a traffic messaging channel. Driver can access traffic, speed camera and weather info via Kia Connected Services. There are USB ports front and back and the top two specs have a wireless 'phone charger.

All versions – GT-Line, GT-Line S, and GT S – are fitted with autonomous emergency braking whereby the brakes will be applied automatically if an impact is imminent. The top two specs also add blind spot indicators with rear cross traffic alert which warn the driver of traffic when changing lanes or exiting a parking space.

Prices start at £31,995 for the GT-Line. The price includes 18-inch alloys, an eight-way power adjustable driver's seat, eight-inch screen with Apple CarPlay and Android Auto connectivity plus DAB radio, head-up display and cruise control – so a lot of kit for your money.

SCORCHING OFFERS AT T WALL VAUXHALL
** YOU GET IT ALL AT T WALL **

MANAGERS SPECIALS

		WAS	NOW	SAVE
14 64	**ADAM JAM 1.2** 3DR RED N ROLL 7,100 MILES	£7195	£6495	£700
13 63	**CORSA SXI 1.4** 5DR ASTEROID GREY 38,000 MILES	£6195	£5595	£600
15 15	**NEW CORSA STING 1.0TURBO** 3DR OLYMPIC WHITE 22,800 MILES STUNNING!	£7195	£6695	£500
15 15	**CORSA SE 1.4 5DR SOVEREIGN** SILVER 36,100 MILES	£7295	£6695	£600
15 65	**MOKKA EXCLUSIV 1.6CDTI** CARBON FLASH 11,500 MILES	£10795	£10395	£400
16 66	**ASTRA ELITE 1.6CDTI** 136PS SPORTS TOURER 5DR DEEP SKY BLUE 14,000 MILES	£13995	£13495	£500
17 17	**ADAM ENERGISED 1.2** LET IT BLUE DELIVERY MILES 29 ONLY!	£9995	£9495	£500
17 67	**MERIVA LIFE 1.4 5DR SUMMIT** WHITE DELIVERY MILES	£9895	£9395	£500
17 67	**MERIVA LIFE 1.4 5DR CARBON** FLASH DELIVERY MILES	£9895	£9495	£400
17 67	**MERIVA LIFE 1.4 5DR SOVEREIGN** SILVER DELIVERY MILES	£9895	£9495	£400

VIVA AND ADAM

15 15	**VIVA SE 1.0** 5DR BLUE RAY ONLY 7,600 MILES		£6995	
16 66	**VIVA SL 1.0** 5DR SUMMIT WHITE 1,300 MILES ONLY		£7795	
15 15	**ADAM JAM 1.2** 3DR LET IT BLUE 12,500 MILES		£7795	
15 65	**ADAM GLAM 1.4** 3DR PURPLE FICTION 19,600 MILES TECH PACK	£8995	£8795	£200
15 65	**ADAM SLAM 1.4** 3DR RED N ROLL 18,200 MILES		£9295	
16 66	**ADAM ENERGISED 1.2** RED N ROLL 6,500 MILES		£9495	
15 15	**ADAM GRAND SLAM 1.4T** GREY/RED ROOF 20,900 MILES STUNNING!		£9995	

CORSA

12 62	**CORSA ACTIVE 1.4** 3DR ASTEROID GREY ONLY 28,500 MILES		£5995	
14 14	**CORSA S 1.2** 5DR OLYMPIC WHITE 28,600 MILES		£5995	
14 63	**CORSA SXI 1.4** 3DR OLYMPIC WHITE ONLY 14,700 MILES	£6495	£6250	£245
13 63	**CORSA LTD EDN** 1.2 3DR FLAME RED 25,200 MILES	£6995	£6595	£400
14 64	**CORSA EXCITE 1.4** 5DR DEEP SKY BLUE 27,300 MILES		£6695	
14 14	**CORSA SXI 1.4** 5DR SOVEREIGN SILVER 43,700 MILES	£6995	£6795	£200
14 64	**CORSA LTD EDN 1.2** 5DR OLYMPIC WHITE 37,200 MILES		£6995	
15 15	**NEW CORSA LIFE 1.2** 3DR FLAME RED 23,100 MILES		£6995	
14 14	**CORSA LTD EDN 1.2** 3DR FLAME RED 40,200 MILES	£7295	£6795	£500
1414	**CORSA LTD BLACK EDN 1.4**TURBO 3DR BLACK 9,000 MILES		£7795	
15 15	**CORSA SE 1.4** 5DR SOVEREIGN SILVER 36,100 MILES	£7495	£7295	£200
14 64	**NEW CORSA EXCITE 1.4**TURBO 5DR WATERWORLD BLUE 8,300 MILES	£7995	£7695	£300
15 15	**NEW CORSA EXCITE 1.4** 3DR OLYMPIC WHITE 15,000 MILES		£7895	
15 15	**NEW CORSA EXCITE 1.4 90** 3DR FLAME RED 10,000 MILES		£7995	
16 16	**NEWCORSA ENERGY 1.4 90** 5DR FLAME RED 13,000 MILES		£8995	
15 15	**NEWCORSA LTD EDN 1.4** 5DR OLYMPIC WHITE 31,300 MILES		£8495	
15 15	**NEWCORSA DESIGN 1.4** AUTOMATIC 5DR ONLY 12,500 MILES	£9495	£9295	£20
16 16	**NEW CORSA LTD EDN 1.4** 3DR OLYMPIC WHITE ONLY 2,500 MILES		£9495	
16 16	**NEW CORSA LIMITED EDITION 1.4** 3DR CARBON FLASH 7,600 MILES		£8695	
16 16	**NEW CORSA VXR 1.6T** 3DR LIME GREEN 7,100 MILES		£12995	

ASTRA, MERIVA & ZAFIRA

		WAS	NOW	SAVE
08 58	**ASTRA SRI 1.9CDTI** AUTO 5DR STAR SILVER 53,500 MILES		£3795	
10 10	**ASTRA EXCLUSIV 1.6** AUTO 5DR DEEPSKY BLUE 52,500 MILES		£5295	
12 12	**ASTRA SRI 1.4** 5DR TECHNICAL GREY 35,000 MILES		£5995	
13 13	**ASTRA EXCLUSIV 1.4** 5DR SOVEREIGN SILVER 46,000 MILES	£6495	£6195	£300
15 65	**ASTRA LTD EDN 1.4**TURBO OLYMPIC WHITE 17,300 MILES		£9995	
16 65	**ASTRA GTC LTD EDN 1.4T** 3DR SUMMIT WHITE 13,800 MILES		£11995	
16 66	**ASTRA SRI NAV 1.6CDTI** 136ps 5DR POWER RED 12,800 MILES EX DEMO	£13995	£13495	£500
17 17	**ASTRA LIMITED GTC** 3DR SUMMIT WHITE 12,500 MILES LEATHER SAT/NAV		£14995	
11 11	**MERIVA SE 1.4T** 5DR OLYMPIC WHITE 55,500 MILES		£4995	
11 11	**MERIVA SE 1.4** 5DR SILVER LIGHTNING 40,000 MILES		£5495	
15 15	**MERIVA LIFE 1.4** 5DR OLYMPIC WHITE 16,500 MILES	£7795	£7295	£500
15 65	**MERIVA EXCLUSIV 1.4** AUTO SOVEREIGN SILVER 20,000 MILES		£9695	
15 15	**ZAFIRA TOURER TECHLINE 1.6CDTI** OLYMPIC WHITE 47,300 MILES		£9995	
16 66	ZAFIRA TOURER TECHLINE 1.6CDTI SOVEREIGN SILVER 13,500 MILES EX DEMO		£15495	

MOKKA, MOKKA X & ANTARA

14 14	**MOKKA TECHLINE 1.7CDTI** 5DR SUMMIT WHITE 44,600 MILES		£9995	
14 64	**MOKKA EXCLUSIV 1.4T** 5DR SUMMIT WHITE 27,200 MILES		£10495	
15 65	**MOKKA TECHLINE 1.6** 5DR SUMMIT WHITE 9,700 MILES		£11695	
15 65	**MOKKA TECHLINE 1.6CDTI** ORANGE ROCK 13,700 MILES		£11995	
15 15	**MOKKA SE 1.7CDTI** AUTOMATIC ASTEROID GREY 16,000 MILES		£11995	
17 17	**MOKKA X ELITE NAV 1.4T** BORACAY BLUE 12,300 MILES		£15995	
17 17	**MOKKA X ELITE NAV 1.4T** QUANTUM GREY 13,950 MILES		£15795	
16 65	**ANTARA SE NAV 2.2CDTI** 4X4 SUMMIT WHITE 23,500 MILES		£12995	
16 16	**ANTARA DIAMOND 2.2CDTI** 163ps 5DR CARBON FLASH 26,950 MILES		£10695	

INSIGNIA

14 64	**INSIGNIA TECHLINE 2.0CDTI** 5DR SOVEREIGN SILVER 25,400 MILES PLUS PACK		£10495	
16 16	**INSIGNIA SRI NAV 2.0CDTI** 5DR SILVER LAKE 36,800 MILES		£10995	
15 15	**INSIGNIA SRI NAV 2.0CDTI** 5DR SILVER LAKE 22,000 MILES		£11495	

OTHER FRANCHISES

11 61	**FORD FOCUS SPORT 1.6TDCI** 5DR WHITE 37,000 MILES		£5695	
13 63	**PEUGEOT 208 ACTIVE 1.4HDI** 5DR STAR SILVER 43,500		£6695	
12 62	**FORD FOCUS ZETEC S 1.0**TURBO 26,500 MILES		£7495	
16 16	**SUZUKI SWIFT SZ-L SAT NAV 1.2** 3DR RED 23,800 MILES		£8495	
15 65	**FORD FIESTA ZETEC 1.25** 5DR RED 15,000 MILES		£8495	
17 66	**KIA PICANTO SE 1.0** 5DR MET BLACK 2,300 MILES		£8995	
12 12	**MINI COUNTRYMAN COOPER 1.6D** 5DR WHITE/BLACK 42,200 MILES		£9495	
13 13	**MINI COOPER ROADSTER 1.6** MET BLACK 31,500 MILES		£9495	
16 16	**CITROEN C4 CACTUS FLAIR 1.6HDI** SAT NAV RED 24,000 MILES	£10295	£9995	£300
16 16	**HYUNDAI IX20 SE 1.4** BLUE DRIVE 5DR WHITE 8,200 MILES		£10695	
11 61	**LR RANGE ROVER EVOQUE DYNAMIC** SI4 AUTO 4WD 3DR WHITE/BLACK 55,200 MILES	£21989	£21495	£494

VANS ALL PLUS VAT UNLES STATED

15 15	**FORD TRANSIT CONNECT 200 L1 TREND 1.6TDCi** 115PS METALLIC BLACK 18,750 MILES		£9995	
17 17	**VAUXHALL COMBO L2 H1 SPORTIVE 1.3CDTI** RUBY RED 9,000 MILES (OUR PARTS VAN)		£10995	
17 67	**VAUXHALL VIVARO SPORTIVE L2 H1 1.6CDTI** WHITE		£14995	

T Wall Garages
01384 288333
www.twall.co.uk

High Street, Pensnett
Kingswinford
DY6 8XB

Award winning family-run business – established 1953
1 Mile from Russells Hall, Hospital, towards Kingswinford

VAUXHALL

Denise Lewis after winning the gold in the Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur in 1998

Champion Denise is keen to inspire others

Denise Lewis celebrates winning the Gold medal in the Women's Heptathlon at the Olympic Games in Sydney, Australia

Denise Lewis celebrating winning the Gold medal in the Women's Heptathlon at the Olympic Games in Sydney

Champ Denise dreams of a new golden generation

HAVING famously reached the pinnacle of her own sport by being crowned Olympic champion, Denise Lewis wants to make it easier for future generations to chase their dream.

Wolverhampton's golden girl has once more been a regular presence on our TV screens, in her familiar role as pundit for the BBC during its coverage of the Commonwealth Games.

Except this time, Lewis has more invested in the action than most.

Since 2015, she has been president of Commonwealth Games England, the organisation responsible for, among other things, ensuring English athletes have the best chance to shine on the Gold Coast.

Lewis and her team have spent time scouting training venues, sourcing sponsors, while also focusing on the many and varied logistical demands of a major championship.

We meet at the official announcement of a new sponsorship deal with the energy company, npower. Such things are often, understandably, overlooked by fans.

Entwined

Yet for Lewis – and more particularly the athletes – the two are often entwined. "Funding is tight," she says. "We're grateful to have these sponsors come on board. Of course it is great for the brand. But it is also about what we can do for the athletes and how we can continue to flourish."

Lewis replaced double Olympic champion Kelly Holmes in the role after England had finished top of the medals table at Glasgow 2014.

"The challenges have been making sure we get the tone right, the right venues.

"The checking back and forth, right from the Youth Games, that was important, where we bring on talent, how we can support their pathway through to senior events?"

Though three decades have passed since she travelled each day from Tettenhall's Regis School to train in Birmingham – Lewis remains hugely passionate and acutely aware of her roots.

"I think I mirror the beginning of many athletes, particularly from this region," she says.

SPORTING FEATURE

By Matt Maher

"It's a case of: 'I'm here, I've got the vest, let's see how I acquit myself with the challenges ahead'"

"There was a lot of travelling, facilities weren't always brilliant. But having something to focus on, to express yourself, can really turn your life around. It's that ripple effect, making someone else think differently or join you in that journey.

"I know who helped me along my way – my schoolteachers, from primary to secondary and beyond, my work colleagues. That inspires me. How can we make a difference? How can we give athletes coming through a reason to compete for their country?"

The theme of progression is one continually repeated by Lewis and from an athlete's perspective is often the very purpose of the Commonwealth Games.

Often referred to as the 'Friendly Games' – it has a well-earned reputation as a breeding ground for future stars. There is no better example than Lewis herself, who twice won Commonwealth gold before going on to be crowned champion at the Sydney Olympics in 2000.

"The Commonwealth Games is so, so important. It's integral to the pathway," she says. "If you can win there, it can really hold you in good stead for the future. There are athletes going to these championships with no senior international experience.

"In my event for example, the heptathlon, Niamh Emerson has been selected for the first time, a great junior athlete and she'll be using that opportunity to see how she will handle her nerves.

"It's a case of: 'I'm here, I've got the vest, let's see how I acquit myself with the challenges ahead'.

"Being so far away from home, the jet lag, the different time zone and the pressure of being such a big team. It's very different. Then you'll have the experienced athletes who are at their second or third and will want to go out on a high."

According to Lewis, those experienced athletes also have a role to play in helping their younger teammates move up to the next level.

"You could be next to an Olympic champion, for example. You watch how they conduct themselves."

Though the entire England team consists of nearly 600 competitors, most of Lewis's attention during the Games will naturally be drawn to the track and field events.

Lewis believes a busy year, with the World Indoors having already taken place and the Europeans scheduled at the end of the summer – has perhaps added another layer of difficulty to a Championship where medals are typically expected rather than hoped for.

"The ambition is big, we have a great team. But you know the friendly rivalry we have down under it's not going to be easy. They (the Australians) prepared and up for the challenge.

"A lot of athletes will have gone into the winter with real gusto, there are three big championships, the Commonwealth Games is one they'll be citing where they can really make their mark. Some athletes aren't able to win on the global stage.

Deliver

"But they can make sure they deliver in an environment which is welcoming, they'll have good weather and all things combined the optimistic ones will be looking to do really well."

And four years from now it is this region which will take centre stage.

The Perry Barr school in which we meet is barely 15 minutes walk from the soon-to-be renovated Alexander Stadium, while a small, until now unremarkable corner of Smethwick will be the home of a new world-class swimming facility.

Lewis has spent the morning running a coaching session for pupils and believes there has never been a better time to begin inspiring the stars of the future. "This is where we start sowing the seeds," she says.

"Something big is happening to Birmingham – it's very exciting and children today in four years they'll be in secondary school and hopefully doing more sport. One of these kids might be on the path to being involved in sport in a serious way.

Staffs hit heights of aerobics excellence

SOUTH Staffs Aerobics Club are targeting national glory after hitting the heights at the West Midlands Regional Championships.

The club, which is based in Hawks Green, Cannock, produced a stunning series of displays that resulted in their best-ever haul of medals with all 28 members returning home with a gold or silver.

Gemma Chilton, who runs the club, was left staggered by the success.

"This is our best year yet for sure," she said. "We have been running for 19 years. Last year we had gymnasts in the top six, but this year we went with 28 athletes and 11 partnerships and all 28 participants came back with a gold or silver medal, and eight of the partnerships won their grade."

Now South Staffs' winners will go on to represent the club and the region at national level. The club are hoping to get more people involved. They have a range of ages, with their youngest participant being three years old, and the eldest 22. Gymnasts must be born between 1997and 2002. To arrange a trial email southstaffsacrobatics@yahoo.co.uk

Oldswinford must play waiting game

OLDSWINFORD cricketers must play a waiting game after rounding off their WCB Indoor League campaign with a victory.

A final ball success against Chaddesley lifted Oldswinford to the top of the table and now they are sweating on the results from Stourbridge and Coombs Wood's final games with both sides able to overhaul the leaders.

Chaddesley posted 110-2 against Oldswinford, who were indebted to a fine knick from Tom Blunt in reply.

He ended unbeaten on 37, hitting the winning runs off the final delivery of the game. Alex Bullingham also impressed with 25 not out.

Quatt just missed out on recording their first win of the season in their final outing as they went down by seven runs to Pedmore.

John Hurdman (26 not out) helped Pedmore to 105-3.

Quatt started their reply impressively with Dan Plank (25 not out) leading the victory charge. But they lost their way in the second half of the innings and were restricted to 98-3.

400/1 for Wolves to be Premier champs

WOLVES may have only just won promotion, but they already being priced up by bookmakers for their first season back in the Premier League.

Nuno Espirito Santo's men have been quoted as 400/1 by bet365 to become champions in their first season back in the top flight – a feat no team has achieved since Brian Clough's Nottingham Forest won the title in 1977/78.

Should your sights be set a little lower, you can get 20/1 for a top-six finish – which would see European football return to Molineux for the first time since the 1980/81 season.

Odds are also priced at 7/4 for a top-half finish and 2/5 for a bottom-half position, while Wolves are as long as 5/1 to make an instant return to the Championship.

Bet365's Steve Freeth said: "There's a bullishness from Wolves fans about their return to the Premier League and you sense the club aren't returning just to make up the numbers."

Sport

Denise says it's all in the Games

Page 39

Nest off to dream start as Town slip

Darlaston Town (1874) 1 Wrens Nest 3

THE visitors made a dream start with a goal inside 90 seconds. A through ball found Stuart Hillman who shrugged off the challenge of Zuki Stanton before sliding the ball beyond keeper Aaron Morris into the far corner of the net.

After both Scott Broadway and Danny Mayne failed to convert difficult chances, the equaliser eventually came on 15 minutes, when an Ant Nicholls drive from 18 yards beat keeper Joe Gilbert.

The goal gave Darlaston some confidence and they enjoyed a spell of pressure which could have seen them take the lead. Leading scorer Broadway beat two defenders before seeing his 15 shot hit the foot of the post and rebound to safety. Minutes later Nicholls unleashed a tremendous 25 yard shot which rattled the bar and bounced off the goal line.

The visitors' Hillman was rewarded for his running behind the defence in the 30th minute when he picked up a Chambonda pass before easing past Stanton to set up Eddy Rann to side foot home.

In the opening minutes of the second half Sam Lynex had an opportunity to equalise but he delayed his shot allowing Nathan Guest to make an excellent blocking tackle to deny the youngster his first goal of the season.

The visitors delivered the killer blow on 62 minutes when Hillman netted his 2nd goal of the game heading home Rann's corner, as he stole in unmarked at the far post. Minutes later a superb Aaron Morris save denied Hillman his hat trick.

Brunt hopes to put things right, in whatever league

CHRIS BRUNT says everyone at the Baggies will take a long hard look at themselves over summer because they shouldn't be going down this season.

The Albion midfielder, who has been made captain by caretaker boss Darren Moore in Jonny Evans' absence, admits their recent upturn in form will probably be too little, too late.

The Baggies are nine points from safety with four games remaining and despite their shock win over Manchester United on Sunday, would still need a miracle to stay up.

Brunt is expected to stay at the club after triggering an extra 12 months on his contract.

He said: "Look, you finish where you deserve to finish over the course of the season. For long periods of the season, we haven't been good enough.

"I am sure there's any number of things you can put your finger on, but ultimately it's us that go out on the pitch and we don't get the results.

"We haven't scored enough goals and we've conceded too many goals, so that's a bad combination to have."

West Brom battle set to pack a punch

BOXING

TENSIONS run high as Tommy Langford and Jason Welborn went head-to-head at a press conference ahead of their British Title fight at Walsall Town Hall on Friday, May 4.

The pair met in the Bassett Suite at The Hawthorns, home of their beloved West Bromwich Albion.

There were plenty of heated exchanges as the duo met to promote 'Neutral Ground: Battle of the Baggies', sponsored by Alliance Scaffolding and Grosvenor Casino Walsall.

"I'm really looking forward to it," Langford said. "I've got to hand it to Errol Johnson and BCB for making a great match-up and a great event. It's great for the Black Country and the Midlands. It's going to be brilliant night for me and my fans and I'm looking forward to putting on a show.

"People talk about Jason being a 'banger'; he's got a lower knock our record than me. I give Jason his due; he's a good fighter when he's on top but I know 100 per cent how to deal with him. And I will deal with him.

"This is my time," added Welborn. "It's a big show and the fact it's on here in the Black Country is a big thing.

"I'm a Black Country lad born and bred. This is belt is staying in the Black Country with me."

Tickets are on sale now, priced at £50 standard unreserved and £150 VIP Ringside, from the Walsall Town Hall Box Office 0845 111 2900.

A stacked undercard for Neutral Ground has also been confirmed.

Chief Support is Doncaster Heavyweight, and Twitter sensation, Dave Allen. Allen is joined by BCB's latest signing; Midlands Area Middleweight Champion, Tyler Denny.

BAGGIES BACK ON THE VICTORY TRAIL

AS one former Manchester United manager so succinctly put it, "Football, bloody hell".

Despite their recent record at Old Trafford and despite the green shoots of recovery against Swansea last weekend, nobody really gave Albion a chance in this game.

United were coming off the back of a stunning victory over their arch-rivals in the derby and they knew defeat at home to the bottom club would hand Manchester City the title in an even more humiliating way than the one they had avoided.

Albion, meanwhile, headed up the M6 with more managers than league wins to their name and no away win in the league in eight months.

They were as long as 20/1 to win with some bookmakers, they weren't given a hope. But Darren Moore and his coaching staff hadn't read the script.

Albion's caretaker boss went to Old Trafford with a simple but effective plan.

Working

By playing an orthodox 4-4-2 formation with players in their preferred and natural positions, he made the Baggies tough to break down.

Without the ball they were tight and compact, but when they had it, the wingers – and in particular James McClean – found the touchline and stretched the pitch.

Moore's back to British basics approach may not be fancy, but it is working because everyone knows their jobs like the back of their hand – they've played these roles since they were little.

After the game Jose Mourinho said: "We were masters in complicated football. Everything was complicated." Albion, meanwhile, kept it simple.

The concern was that they would be overrun in midfield as they have been before this season with two men up front.

But the brilliant Jay Rodriguez dropped back into midfield and helped out when necessary, epitomised by his early dispossessions of Nemanja Matic and Ander Herrera. It wasn't just tactics though.

When Moore was asked after the game, how he did it, how he turned this team of perennial losers into a squad capable of beating the second-best team in the country, he answered with 'togetherness'. This is the other side to Moore's success.

In his own calm and determined way he's galvanised a group who have been lost this season, struggling for inspiration under Tony Pulis, struggling for direction under Alan Pardew.

Moore may not be very experienced as a coach, but he knows how to treat people well, and ultimately that is a huge part of management. So far, he has got everything spot on.

Two games is enough of a barometer to judge a coach, but keep this up and he will emerge as a genuine contender for the permanent job.

Jay Rodriguez's header hits the back of the net as Albion down Manchester United at Old Trafford

Wednesbury show their class to win

Bloxwich 10 Wednesbury 38

AFTER securing promotion last week, Wednesbury travelled to play local rival Bloxwich for their final league match of the season.

It took Wednesbury just three minutes to take the lead when they were awarded a penalty, and Matt Dale converted the kick. Five minutes later Josh Harris received the ball from the lineout and dashed over the line for a try, Dale converted.

With 30 minutes gone John McGregor made a breakthrough for Wednesbury, from the scrum, diving over the line, Dale kicked the conversion. Within a few minutes Wednesbury did it again with some superb passing off the ball, Stan Zvidi received the ball to race over the line for the try, Dale again, on target.

Then it was Bloxwich's turn, with a scrum close to the Wednesbury line, they managed to push Wednesbury back before diving over the line for the try, no conversion. In the second half, Bloxwich had control of the game for the first 15 minutes, in which they scored a try.

But then, from a line out on the Bloxwich five metre line, the ball went to ground and Wednesbury's John McGregor dived and stretched just enough to get his hands on the ball for his second try, Dale converting again.

A loose pass was latched onto by Dale, who ran virtually the full length of the pitch to score under the posts, with a final score from Dale.

Wednesbury's final game of the season will be their Presidents Day on May 12.

Wednesbury coach Gary Summers said after the game Josh Harris was man of the match, narrowly pipping Matt Dale and Rob Dale and with Jack Harris getting the crowd going with a huge hit on one of the biggest Bloc players, setting the standard

He said: "There were two sterling performances from two sets of brothers too, it was a great performance by the whole team and we did what we needed to do to finish the season off.

"Hopefully we can carry this through to next season after the break."

Wednesbury u16s have managed to arrange a game against a French u16 touring side The team is made up of players from three villages from the South West of France, Laloubère Séméac and Aureilhan. Wednesbury is also fielding a barbarians side assisted by players from Old Salts and DK who all have struggled with dropping numbers.

★★★

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketley, Telford.
Thursday, April 19, 2018

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
The recycled content of newspapers in 2015 was 62.8%